UNIVERSITY SERIALS DIVISION

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Hidden penalties of the Breathalyser

Drink, drive and be sorry; Weekend



GRADUATE BLUES

Why students don't apply for jobs

Degrees of despondency, page 6



SYDNEY AT 20% OFF

Go places to the great outdoors

Details and token, page 37

40P
SATURDAY EDITION

THE TIMES

No. 64,824 SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 1993

Major may meet Reynolds next week

Ulster given hope of peace for Christmas

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
IN BRUSSELS

■ A peace deal for Ulster, containing concessions by both Britain and Ireland, could be signed at a summit in London as early as next week

JOHN Major and Albert Reynolds were on course last night to sign a Northern Ireland peace agreement before Christmas. The pact, which the two leaders hope will bring an end to IRA violence, could be sealed in London as early as next week.

Both sides reported good progress last night after Mr Major and Mr Reynolds met for an hour at the European Council summit in Brussels and hopes of a breakthrough rose when they announced that they were aiming to meet again before Christmas.

Officials are now working flat out to resolve outstanding obstacles to producing a joint declaration, which is understood to centre on a strong commitment by the Irish Government to the right of the people of Northern Ireland to determine whether the province becomes a part of Ireland or remains within the United Kingdom.

Irish sources believe that the document will contain a recognition by Britain of the legitimacy of the goal of Irish unity, although this was not confirmed by British officials. It is thought likely that it will at least contain the reaffirmation of the view previously stated by ministers that Britain has no "selfish, strategic or economic interest in maintaining the division of Ireland into two parts". Britain will, however, make plain that it has no intention of trying to persuade the people in the north of the value of a united Ireland.

In return, Dublin will indicate its readiness to put articles 2 and 3 of its constitution — which encompass Ireland's territorial claim on the north — to a referendum as part of an overall settlement. It remains unclear whether Mr Major has agreed to Irish demands for a parallel plebiscite in the north on the contents of any constitutional agreement.

Senior British Government sources emphasised last night that there was still serious work to be done before a deal could be sealed, saying: "This has always been a hazardous undertaking." Agreement by Christmas was the objective, but it could not be promised — Britain did not want to raise artificial hopes that it would not be able to implement.

Mr Reynolds was also cautious as he spoke to reporters before going to dinner last night, admitting: "There are some very difficult areas to be put to bed." He said: "I am not saying we are definitely going to get there by Christmas. But there is to be another meeting between myself and Mr Major before then and it is hoped to have the formula in place."

Irish officials had earlier said: "This thing has gone on for more than 20 years. An extra couple of days may be required to put the finishing touches to it."

Mr Major said in a television interview that his meeting with the Irish leader had been positive and progress had been made. Neither he nor Mr Reynolds held a press conference after the talks, but in a joint statement the two governments said they had taken stock of developments since their meeting in Dublin last Friday. "Progress has been made. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach wish to bring the exercise between the two governments to a successful conclusion and hope to hold a further meeting before Christmas to this end."

The date of their third meeting has not been announced, but both leaders want to report to their parliaments before they rise for the Christmas recess. The Commons rise next Friday, but a senior British Government source said last night that a meeting next week could neither be ruled in nor ruled out.

Before the meeting, Mr Reynolds said that the peace initiative would not threaten, prejudice or predetermine the future of either community. "the talks which we hope will follow the peace initiative will give the opportunity to everybody to take part, and hopefully the paramilitaries will be able to find enough in teh peace initiative to cease violence and join the political process when they see that the futile approach of the last 25 years has not got them anywhere."

The joint declaration is expected to repeat the offer to Sinn Fein to join the talks process after the IRA has demonstrated that it has renounced violence for good.

Officials did not rule out another meeting between Mr Major and Mr Reynolds at the Brussels summit today, but it appeared unlikely. An Irish government source said: "We hope they will be in a position to have a joint declaration before Christmas that will bring about a cessation of violence. Work is to be done, but good progress has been made. It was a good meeting today."



Paul Ride, one of the three Britons pardoned by President Saddam, playing with his son William, 2, on his arrival in Jordan yesterday

Freed Britons reunited with families

BY RICHARD BEESTON AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE three Britons released from an Iraqi prison after a personal appeal by Sir Edward Heath were reunited with their families in Jordan yesterday before two of them began a flight back to Britain last night.

Paul Ride, 33, and Michael Wainwright, 43, were returning, while Simon Dunn, 23, planned to travel with his mother and father to their home in Dubai. The freed men embraced relatives at Marka air base after stepping off a helicopter which had picked them up at the Iraqi border after President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had freed them.

"I am very happy, thanks very much," Mr Ride said as he clasped his two-year-old son and kissed his wife Julie, who visited him in the Baghdad jail several times.

Britain has insisted that no deal was done to secure the release. In the past, Baghdad had linked the Britons' release to the unfreezing of Iraqi assets in British banks. But the British Government said a later UN resolution had since made it impossible for individual governments to unfreeze assets.In November 1991, Iraq freed another jailed Briton, Ian Richter, after the British Government agreed to unfreeze about $120 million (£80.5 million) of Iraqi assets to buy food and medicine. Mr Richter had served six years of a life sentence for bribery.

Sir Edward said again in Amman, the Jordanian capital, that he made no commitment to Iraq in return for the prisoners' release. But he said Iraq's humanitarian needs "are very grave indeed". He said his personal doctor, who accompanied him to Baghdad, talked to Iraq's health minister and other medical and hospital experts who detailed their needs.

"These demands are very considerable," he said, adding that he would present his Government with the full details.

"I believe it is the first importance for the United Nations to look after the humanitarian needs of all the people involved in this."

Mr Ride and Mr Wainwright, meanwhile, were reportedly alienated by their shared plight. The two have admitted they barely spoke as they at first shared a cell with murderers and hardened criminals and then with just each other. "Paul's got a family and a mortgage to worry about, whereas Michael is a one-man band," Mrs Ride said.

Mr Ride added: "I felt despair of getting out (of Iraq). But Julie was working hard at home and told me a lot of work was going on to free me."

A beaming Sir Edward said that President Saddam, whom he met on Thursday, also had promised to free the last two Western prisoners

Continued on page 2, col 7

Heath profile, page 2
Leading article, page 17



Simon Dunn is greeted by his father



Michael Wainwright hugs his mother

Delors' scheme shelved

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND GEORGE BROCK

JACQUES Delors' ambitious plans to borrow £30 billion on the open market to finance European transport projects were shelved last night at the Brussels summit in the face of opposition from John Major and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

The plan is likely to be handed to the finance ministers who are unenthusiastic not least because they were not shown them until just before the summit.

In the clearest possible sign that the Anglo-German axis is back on track, Mr Major and Herr Kohl lined up to criticise the proposals and the manner in which they had been rushed forward only days before the summit. British officials denied that the aim had been to "kill the White Paper dead" and welcomed the decision to make unemployment its number one issue.

Caution on plan, page 14

Births, marriages, deaths 18
Business 21-32
Court and Social 18
Crossword 20
Leading articles 17
Letters 17
Obituaries 19
Sport 33-40
Weather 20

Arts 16
Fashion 12
Food and Drink 4,5
Gardening 11
Out of Town 18
Property 13
Time Off 9

Buying The Times overseas: Austria Sch 35; Belgium B Frs 70; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 250; Cyprus C£1.00; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Mkk 15.00; France F 12.00; Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar 80p; Greece Dr 350; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Irish Republic 55p; Italy L 3,300; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 275; Malta 65c; Morocco Dir 35.00; Norway Kr 18.00; Portugal Esc 275; Spain Pes 250; Sweden Skr 17.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.80; Tunisia Din 2.00; USA $3.00.

9 770140 046664 49

Women bowlers rebel against hat tricks

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

REVOLUTION is in the air in the world of women's bowls. After 90 years which has seen little change, the women, particularly the younger ones, are demanding a new look to get away from the frumpy image given by hats, gloves, tights and brown shoes.

Proposals designed to brighten the image of the women's game, including allowing coloured polo shirts above white skirts rather than the regulation white blouse and tie, have foundered on the problem of hats. White hats, which must be worn at all times, are unpopular with the majority of players and would not be considered the right topping to such an ensemble.

In England, where women bowlers are most strictly governed, players must wear hats at all times, even in the car as they arrive for a club match. An Englishwoman might be thought to have enough on her plate in major competitions without having to keep one hand on her hat in the wind.

The hats introduced in 1931 resembled the Cloche hats of the 1920s. The prototype has a band around it with the brim turned up. The bow is always worn to the left to pass muster at kit inspection.

When the British authorities consider the proposals, they will be aware of the lead taken by the Scottish Women's Bowling Association. From next season women can play bareheaded in the Scottish championships.



Bowls: hats compulsory

Leading article, page 17
Details, page 40

Scotsman locked up for 'aye'

A SCOTSMAN was put in the cells for repeatedly replying "aye" instead of "yes" in a court.

Kevin Mathieson, 18, of Deanston, Perthshire, was appearing at a means court in Stirling accused of non-payment of a £120 fine. Asked if he was Kevin Mathieson, he replied "aye". Told by the sheriff, James Nolan, a solicitor, that he must answer yes or no, Mathieson replied "aye".

The sheriff said he would be held in contempt and asked whether he understood. Mathieson said: "aye".

After 90 minutes, Mathieson was brought back and ordered to clear the remainder of his fine. He apologised and was freed.

Later Mathieson, an apprentice bricklayer, said: "The sheriff kept asking me to say yes or no, and I thought I was answering him. The next I kenned I was put in the cells."

Back to the future as Channel link runs late

FROM PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR, IN CALAIS

BRITAIN finally ended Europe's isolation from the UK yesterday when the first train-load of passengers passed through the Channel tunnel. With reassuring familiarity, the train was late.

The problem was, of course, the French. A train from Paris was scheduled to pass through the tunnel, turn round and continue by a second tunnel crossing to Calais ahead of the British train. It was running behind schedule.

"I'm sorry to say," came the voice over the English train's PA, "that the train coming from France is approximately 45 — I repeat, 45 — minutes late and we will have to wait for them to return through the tunnel before we can go through."

British Rail-hardened passengers shrugged off this blow lightly, and postponed for a little while longer the moment of the first passenger land crossing to France since the two countries were last joined by a fixed link in the Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago.

Real passenger services will not begin until May — freight two months earlier — but the first passenger-carrying train passed through the tunnel yesterday to mark the formal handover of the tunnel from its builders, the Anglo-French consortium Transmanche Link, to its operators, Eurotunnel.

At precisely 2.25pm an InterCity 225 jolted out of London's Victoria station in London, headed for Folkestone and France. As the train drew closer to the tunnel portal, the Kent countryside disappeared under increasingly large swaths of gleamingly new-looking concrete, and the Tannoy announcements started to come.

"A few safety announcements," intoned the TML steward to the assembled business leaders and journalists on board. Used to ignoring such in-flight information as a matter of course when flying on business, the cream of British construction heard de-

Continued on page 2, col 3

Photograph, page 20

PUT LESS MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS.

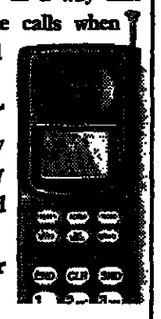
SAVE UP TO 24% ON PEAK RATE CALLS

When you buy a mobile phone, remember it isn't Cellnet or Vodafone who decide how much you pay for your calls. It's Service Providers like us.

We give our customers the best possible value by structuring our charges in a way that can save up to 24% on peak rate calls when compared to Vodafone's recommended business tariff.

But remember, the Peoples Phone™ Tariff, and our range of competitively priced phones, are available only through Peoples Phone outlets and Authorised Dealers.

So call us free on 0800 10 11 12 or fill in the coupon below.



PEOPLES

TITLE INITIAL SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TELEPHONE NO.

Please return to Peoples Phone, Dryden House, The Edge Business Centre, Humber Road, London NW2 6EW. TT1/12

Peoples Phone is a trade mark of Cellular Communications Corporation Plc.

IRA blamed for tax on insurance premiums

■ Treasury fears that it would have to pick up the bill for bomb damage to the City may have been behind the Budget levy

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE IRA's mainland bombing campaign is to blame for the £750 million-a-year tax on insurance premiums announced by Kenneth Clarke in last month's Budget, insurance industry sources believe.

The levy was prompted by growing Treasury fears that it will have to pick up much of the bill for April's IRA bomb explosion in Bishopsgate, which killed a newspaper photographer and caused at least £500 million worth of damage to the City of London.

The government announced last December that it would step in as the reinsurer of last resort for mainland bomb damage in response to the devastating St Mary Axe explosion in the City last year. It has long provided a 100 per cent indemnity for terrorist damage in Ulster.

However, following promising developments in Ulster, mainland British companies are increasingly reluctant to take out expensive terrorism insurance cover with the fund set up by the government.

"The government realised it had a much bigger cashflow problem than it originally thought because the incentive to take up the insurance diminished with the peace overtures in Northern Ireland," said a leading insurance industry source.

The source added that the industry had been braced for the tax because of a "gentlemen's agreement" with the government that the Treasury would seek to recoup its expected losses from the Bishopsgate bomb.

Observers had been surprised by the relatively low-key reaction to the levy from leading insurance figures in the wake of the announcement. "The feeling in the industry is that it got off lightly. The overwhelming impression is of a massive sign of relief," one City analyst said.

The government had been considering ways of increasing the taxation of insurance but its effective subsidy of the industry following the Bishopsgate bomb strengthened the Treasury's case.

The 3 per cent tax, which will add about £18 a year or 35p a week to average household insurance bills, is to be levied from next October on household and motor premiums. Aviation, marine, life and reinsurance premiums will remain exempt from tax. It brings Britain into line with European and North American practice.

The government set up the special insurance fund, Pool Re, to provide companies with cover for terrorism damage in March. Private insurance firms had refused to provide cover after the St Mary Axe attack, leaving companies exposed to the full cost of any subsequent explosion and threatening a huge loss of business from the City.

The government had hoped that premiums paid into the fund would cover any claims made as a result of terrorist attacks. However, the Bishopsgate bomb left the fund with a huge deficit, which hefty premium rate hikes in July have failed to make up. The Treasury is negotiating with Pool Re about the possibility of a further round of rate increases at the end of the month.

It is still impossible to quantify the final cost of the bomb as claims are still flowing in. Several City firms are still waiting to move back into their damaged offices eight months after the blast.

The government's share of the bill is likely to be substantial. It comes at a time when the government is struggling to reduce the budget deficit.



El Greco's *Portrait of a Young Lady*, sold to an anonymous bidder yesterday

El Greco portrait fetches record sum

BY JOHN SHAW

A STRIKING picture by El Greco (1541-1614), one of only three known portraits of women by the artist, set a £1.7 million record for a portrait by the artist when it was sold at Christie's in London yesterday.

The head and shoulders study was a highlight in a £10.9 million sale of pictures.

The identity of the subject, a handsome dark-eyed young woman in a white head-dress, has been the subject of much speculation. One scholar suggested she was the artist's daughter-in-law.

The painting was bought anonymously over the telephone.

The sale revealed the discovery of a superb Canaletto (1697-1768) of *The Church of St Giorgio Maggiore, Venice*, thought to date from the artist's stay in London in the late 1740s.

It was bought by an ancestor of the owner in the 19th century, who had thought the picture might only be a copy and sent a photograph of it to Charles Beddington, an Old Master expert at Christie's.

"As soon as I saw the photograph it seemed to me to be so obviously right and was even more so when I saw the picture properly," he said.

"Our opinion was confirmed by the authorities on Canaletto. It is a wonderful painting. When I told the owner how much it sold for it made his day." The study went anonymously for £683,500.

BR runs late on first trip to Europe

Continued from page 1

tailed instructions not about lifejackets but what to do if an evacuation was necessary — how to leave the train. "At all times," declared the safety rep, "walk! Do not run!"

Thus braced, at 4.11pm precisely the British train entered the tunnel portal. At 4.29pm precisely it came out again. With a new engine coupled on, it had to be backed up to the real departure platform.

Actual passenger services will be straight through, but for yesterday's trial the 13 carriageloads of travellers had to be disgorged from one train on to another — an ordinary Network SouthEast Thames-Link commuter train — for the tunnel itself.

As stewards pushed a drinks trolley round, a new announcement of comfortingly familiarity followed. "Unfortunately," came the steward's voice, "the duty-free shop, restaurant and bars will not be open on this trip due to staff training today."

Finally, at 6.07pm precisely and 1½ hours behind schedule the train slipped into the tunnel portal, and accelerated to a speed of 100kph for the half-hour journey.

Once under way, the journey was flawless: smooth, quick, trouble-free — and nary a thought for those bobbing about in boats on the surface, 100 metres of cold Channel water above. At one point, the train lights were turned off to allow all on board to get a glimpse of the tunnel itself, but at such a speed little could be seen. Exactly 28 minutes after entering the tunnel portal, the train emerged at the French terminal at Coquelles, near Calais, to a burst of applause. The great divide had been crossed, Europe finally and fully joined.

It was Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, who summed it up. "The British are famous for not handling looking to the future too well," he said. "But once people can touch the tunnel, feel it, see it, they will wonder how we did without it."

Photograph, page 20

Prisoners freed

Statesman who saw a horizon beyond Downing Street

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR most British politicians, achieving prime ministerial rank is the pinnacle. Sir Edward Heath, however, left 10 Downing Street at the relatively young age of 58, and when he lost the leadership of his party shortly afterwards he was determined to widen his horizons to matters of global significance.

The breadth of those horizons became abundantly clear in 1990 when he spoke enviously to the Queen of the work of James Baker, the then US Secretary of State. "Lots of people would like to be Secretary of State," he said. The casual remark typified Sir Edward's determination to be seen as a world statesman, not simply a former British prime minister.

He had already achieved remarkable success in making a succession of visits to Baghdad which culminated in the release of 40 British hostages held by Saddam Hussein since Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. Sir Edward, then aged 74, had reached a new zenith in a multi-faceted life encompassing British politics, orchestral conducting and sailing. In pursuing each of his interests, however, he had looked far beyond British shores. His greatest self-proclaimed achievements as prime minister were dominated by foreign issues, most notably Britain's entry into the then EEC and improved relations with China.

In spite of his statesman's position, his original sorties to meet Saddam deep into enemy territory were not feather-bedded, nor without personal risk. Sir Edward, familiar with the customary courtesies extended towards visiting statesmen, was taken aback when he was invited to meet the Iraqi president alone, without officials.

Although apprehensive, his reaction summed up the spirit of a bluff politician who trusts his own judgment and expects to get his own way. "I have been in politics for 40 years and no-one is going to start taking advantage of me now."

Those opposed to his single-handed venture accused Sir Edward of being foolhardy and playing into the hands of a tyrant. Some senior diplomats accused of him of inflating the Iraqi leader's sense of self-importance by negotiating with him. The answer, they said, was to dictate, not to beg. Sir Edward's robust adherence to his belief that Saddam should not be dismissed as an ogre ensured that the two men could talk honestly, openly and directly. He praised Saddam as well-informed and his recognition of qualities in a leader villified throughout the world allowed the two men to build up a meaningful rapport.

His success in bringing home the hostages in 1990 was denounced by some critics as a chance coincidence which came as Saddam was being placed under increasing pressure from other Arab leaders. The latest coup will make it more difficult for cynics to dismiss Sir Edward's achievements quite so lightly.



Sir Edward: sorties not without risk

Heath says no deal struck with Saddam

Continued from page 1

held for illegally entering Iraq, Kai Sondermann, a German student, and Jean Berierre, a Frenchman.

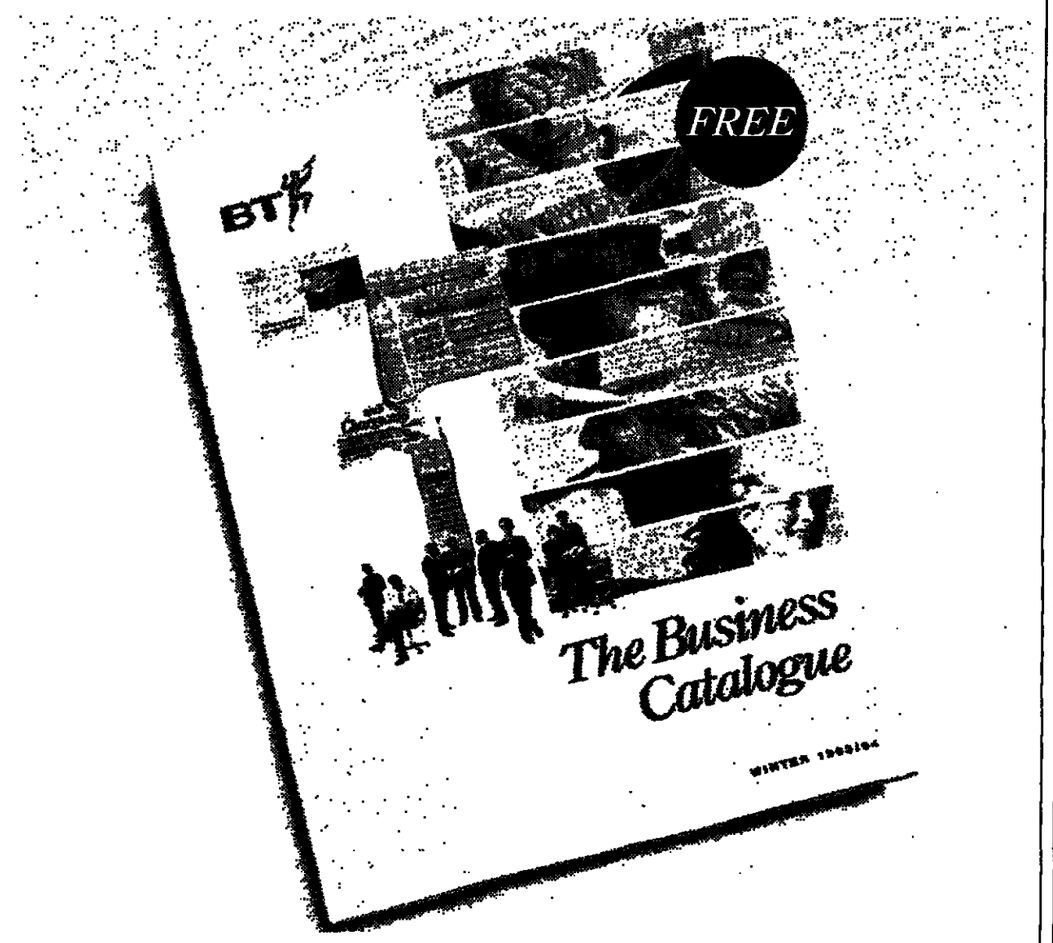
"I enquired about the German and French citizens whom we were also to take, and he (Saddam) assured me that similar arrangements will be made for their release and those are under way now," Sir Edward said. "I told him that as we are all members of the European Union it was natural that all of this should be dealt with together, which he accepted."

"It feels super," declared Mr Dunn, who had shared a tiny prison cell with Herr Sondermann. "Conditions were very basic in prison, it was our freedom we were looking at all the time."

The three, who had survived on food delivered, along with money and letters from their families, by the British embassy, looked relaxed.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, welcomed the release. He reiterated London had made no deal for their freedom and would not change its Iraq policy.

Leading article, page 17



The best book on business isn't a best seller. It's free.

It's 148 pages, it's full colour, it's free. The BT Business Catalogue is brimming with ways our products and services can give your business the edge: everything from pagers to international communications networks. You'll also find prices, details on how to order by phone for next day delivery, and even advice on how to take advantage of savings on business calls. We want your business to get more from communications – so call us for your free BT Business Catalogue now.

Yes, please send me a free copy of the BT Business Catalogue. JMT 214
Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Initials _____ Surname _____
Job Title _____
Company Name _____
Company Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Daytime Telephone (Code) _____ (No) _____
Number of Employees at that site _____
Do you want someone to contact you ☐ YES ☐ NO
To: BT, Dept WWYB, FREEPOST BS6295, Bristol BS1 2BR.
No stamp needed.

BT

We go further, to bring you closer

Call us now on **Free***fone 0800* **800 800**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bank gunman seizes 10 surgery hostages

Police marksmen laid siege last night to a dentist's surgery where a gunman was holding up to ten hostages after fleeing from a bank where he had demanded money. The man, believed to be aged 29, burst into the surgery in Hay-on-Wye, Powys, yesterday afternoon. He forced two people into the building and captured a dentist and four nurses. A second dentist escaped.

The man is believed to be wanted by police investigating the attempted murder of a 60-year-old woman in Tan-Y-Deri on Wednesday. She is critically ill.

Fusion blast success

The world's biggest controlled fusion reaction has been achieved at the Plasma physics laboratory at Princeton University, New Jersey, bringing closer a form of energy that should be inexhaustible and relatively pollution-free. The experimental reactor generated a peak power of at least three megawatts for a period of four seconds.

63 children in bus crash

A motorist died and 63 children were treated for shock and bruising yesterday when a coach and a car collided in pouring rain. The coach, carrying pupils from St Michael's primary school in Headingley, and a Ford Sierra careered onto the pavement after the crash in Chapel Allerton, Leeds. Onlookers sought to free the trapped car driver.

Last Durham pit closes

The last pit in the Durham coalfield, which once employed over 200,000 miners, was closed yesterday. As 670 men left Wearmouth Colliery in Sunderland, NUM officials said miners had done everything possible to keep the pit open and now faced the dole. However, a private bid to run the colliery, one of the oldest in Britain, is expected.

Gardner death protest



Myrna Simpson, right, the mother of Jamaican-born Joy Gardner, who died in hospital in August, four days after police stormed her home to issue a deportation order, yesterday joined a demonstration outside the offices of the Crown Prosecution Service in the City of London and said: "A report into my daughter's death should have come out today. I have heard absolutely nothing."

Bodmin 'beast' filmed

A farmer has filmed a black, long-tailed animal thought to be a puma or other wild cat on Bodmin Moor. Rosemary Rhodes's video, shot near Bolventor, Cornwall, was shown last night on BBC2's *Close Up*. Experts said they thought it was a puma or a leopard. Sightings of a cat-like animal have led to it becoming called the Beast of Bodmin Moor.

Big Savings on Motor Insurance

Answer "Yes" and you could save £££'s.

	Yes	No
Car is driven by you and your wife/husband only.	☐	☐
Both drivers are between 30-70 years of age.	☐	☐
Both drivers live at the same address (not available in N. Ireland).	☐	☐
Both drivers hold a full driving licence free of conviction.	☐	☐
Both drivers free of disability and infirmity.	☐	☐
Neither driver has had an accident in the past 3 years.	☐	☐
Neither driver has been declined or refused insurance nor had special terms imposed.	☐	☐
Car is a family model (e.g. not a sports or high performance car).	☐	☐
Car is owned by you and kept at your home address.	☐	☐
Car is used for social, domestic, pleasure and/or personal business purposes only.	☐	☐

10 "Yes" Answers? DON'T DELAY

CALL FREE NOW
0800 38 0800
Lines open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12 noon Sat
Please quote reference below

FREE. This handy car compass is yours free when you request a quote today!

CU
COMMERCIAL UNION
General Insurance
We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

Not available in N. Ireland
Ref. No TS315

Hollywood's glitterati loved it — but the critics panned *Sunset Boulevard's* return to home turf

Stars come out in force to shine on Lloyd Webber debut

FROM CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN IN LOS ANGELES

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber's position as the brightest star in the stage musical firmament was confirmed yesterday as Hollywood's glitterati welcomed back *Sunset Boulevard*.

Former President Ronald Reagan — a man who used to be big in politics, to paraphrase a famous line from the show — was guest of honour when Sir Andrew's £7 million extravaganza opened here in a star-studded premiere at a theatre on the aptly named Avenue of the Stars. Billy Wilder, the co-writer and director of the film on which the show is based, was also in attendance.

As Sir Andrew settled into his seat at the premiere along with Hollywood's panjandrums, he was at least reasonably assured of recouping his investment. Advance bookings were close to $10 million (£6.85 million) before the curtain rose on first night. The 1,800-seat theatre, which had been upgraded at a cost of $5 million to accommodate the musical, had taken $727,162 during the second week of previews. The Hollywood first night was greeted with a prolonged standing ovation.

Less certain was the critical reaction to the new staging of the show, which had a tepid reception when it opened in London in July, and in particular to the daring casting of Glenn Close, not known for her vocal ability, as the ageing silent screen star Norma Desmond, the role immortalised by Gloria Swanson for the film and inhabited with less ease by Patti LuPone in London.

Sunset Boulevard, the film, became an immediate critical and commercial hit when it opened in 1950 starring Swanson and William Holden as the young screenwriter seduced by the ageing star's wealth and thwarted dreams, and has become Hollywood's most enduringly dark reflection of itself.

Sir Andrew acknowledged that substantial changes had been made to the show for its Hollywood run. The multi-millionaire composer, famous not just for his apparently inexhaustable run of musical hits but also for tinkering with them, said that because of the technical problems that had plagued the London opening, he had been unable "to work on the piece itself".

For *Los Angeles*, Sir Andrew said, "out of 66 musical cues, only three have survived without something on them". He also added a new song. But the most significant changes were to the tone and colour of the piece, which now has a "much more monochrome, opera *noir* quality", the composer said. It was now, he hoped, "much darker, more harrowing, with the quality of Greek tragedy".

Boosted by saturation coverage of the opening on local and national television and in the papers, the early American reviews were generally favourable, particularly of Glenn Close, "a stunning choice" according to the *Los Angeles Times*. "An actress of consummate class and commanding presence, she has also the voice, daring and deportment for the role."

Likewise John Napier's design — which included a magnificent central set, a burnished gold rococo living-room, complete with winding staircase, in the Norma Desmond mansion — was highly praised, but both Sir Andrew's score and Alan Campbell, the male lead, who, the *Hollywood Reporter* said, "makes virtually no impression" as the young screenwriter Joe Gillis, came in for biting criticism.

Variety, which a couple of days before had reported that Sir Andrew was trying to turn at least five of his shows into movies, including *Evita*, was harshest: "Lloyd Webber embellishes *Sunset* without improving it, imbuing the story instead with a low-brow sensibility that owes more to burlesque than to film *noir*."

The *Hollywood Reporter* was likewise unimpressed, writing that the score is "not good enough to justify the high cost of a theatre ticket in the 1990s".

At the 1,000-seat dinner on the Paramount Studio lot where some of the action of the show is set, chatter was mainly of when the musical would transfer to Broadway and whether London star Patti LuPone would go with it, as contracted, or if she would be replaced by Close, whose entrance to the post-show party brought the cheering guests to their feet.

As Ronald and Nancy Reagan joined the Lloyd Webbers, Billy Wilder, Paramount Pictures head Sherry Lansing, Disney chief Michael Eisner, Hollywood mogul David Geffen and Sir David Frost at the top table with director Trevor Nunn and assorted stars nearby, the Hollywood rumour mill ground away.

Was it true, people in the shimmering crowd whispered, that LuPone was seeking $4 million to be bought out of her contract if she was replaced on Broadway?



FRED PROUSER

Billy Wilder, left, who directed the 1950 film *Sunset Boulevard*, with Glenn Close, who stars in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage version

□ A MUSICAL show is transferring to the West End from a Gloucestershire barn. Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has signed up the show by the Beauchamp Music Group for a two-week Christmas run in London after seeing it at the Edinburgh Festival.

The production of *Whistle Down the Wind* stars six Gloucester music students.

Flowers flood in for Bulger mother and her new son

BY RONALD FAUX

FLOWERS and goodwill messages from around the world yesterday poured into Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, where James Bulger's mother gave birth to a boy on Wednesday afternoon.

Michael James Bulger arrived in the world two weeks early, to the acclaim of more than a dozen aunts and uncles who had supported Ralph and Denise Bulger throughout the trial of two boys found guilty of abducting and murdering their two-year-old son.

Ray Matthews, a brother of Denise, 26, said after seeing the baby yesterday: "Everyone says they can see James in him. Every time I look at the baby it is like seeing James when he was first born."

Mrs Bulger and Michael James were kept under observation off the NHS hospital's maternity ward after the infant was born by Caesarean section weighing 4lb 14oz.

Mr and Mrs Bulger decided to name him after Father Michael O'Connell, the priest who consoled and counselled them after James's murder. The 37-year-old, Irish-born priest at the Sacred Heart Church in Northwood, added: "She has been talking of how much he looks like James, and how small he is and how healthy he is. They called the infant James in memory of his dead brother."

The hospital authorities said yesteray they expected mother and son would be home in time for Christmas. Dr Usama Andrilla, who delivered Michael James, said: "Both mother and baby are doing very well. The delivery went like a dream. The baby is fine and is now with Denise in a single room at the maternity ward."

The man who led the investigation into James's murder, Det Supt Albert Kirby, was one of those who congratulated the Bulgers yesterday. "I don't think there is anyone who is involved in the investigation right through who has not been awaiting this news. This year, for everyone and in particular for Ralph and Denise, has been absolutely horrendous. We only hope that now with this tremendous news that once Denise and the baby are discharged from the hospital, this will be the final thing for them. They can look forward during the course of the next year to rebuilding their lives."



Ralph Bulger arrives at the hospital

Kirkby, steered the family through their grief and involved them in arrangements for the requiem mass funeral service he conducted at the church.

"He has been so good to us, even in the early stages, that they thought it would be a nice tribute to Father Michael," Mr Matthews said.

Mr Matthews said Mrs Bulger was delighted and

Princess serenaded with 'We'll meet again'

BY LIN JENKINS

AN ARDENT band of supporters was in south London yesterday for what many believed was the Princess of Wales's last public appearance before her retirement from public life.

Some devoted followers had come specifically to say farewell. After posing for the formal photographs as she opened a church and community centre, the Princess took a few private moments to greet the crowd. Colin Edwards, whose union flag hat has helped the Princess pick him out in the crowd on 48 occasions, gave her a festive poinsettia as a farewell gift and led the crowd in giving her three cheers. "She was nearly crying. She found it difficult to respond. I think she was suppressing her emotions because of the warmth of the welcome," he said.

The sight of four people shivering in T-shirts bearing the legend "Leave Diana Alone" brought a smile to her face. Inside the community centre the Princess chatted with pensioners and church workers. Ethal King, 63, said: "We sang 'We'll meet again' and she just stood there with us listening. She was really choked and she swallowed hard, then smiled."

Yesterday's walkabout was probably her last. Since she announced her withdrawal from public life the Princess has seldom been off the front pages and her engagements have attracted tremendous coverage. Her final appearance before the lower profile is assumed will be on Thursday, at the annual general meeting in London of Centrepoint, a charity for the homeless. But if anyone seriously believes that oblivion then beckons, they know neither the Princess nor the British media.

□ The question of whether an alleged affair by the Prince of Wales makes him fit to be king will probably be ignored by most church preachers tomorrow. All clergy in the Church of England swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen, her heirs and successors on their ordination.

Letters, page 17

Death of waterskier a mystery

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POST-mortem examination on Corrina Williams, the champion waterskier who died in mysterious circumstances, has failed to find a cause of death.

Miss Williams, 18, an A-level student at Nottingham College, was a British and European junior champion. She died early on Sunday morning, three days after collapsing outside a Stoke-on-Trent nightclub.

The coroner, John Wain, called in the police to investigate the death and they are conducting further enquiries while forensic tests continue.

Miss Williams died in North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary on Wednesday morning, never having regained consciousness.

Staffordshire police are trying to determine how she died and are speaking to friends who went to the nightclub with her to try to discover what happened.

A spokesman said: "We cannot say if it was drugs because we do not know. We cannot say what it was because we do not know. A team of officers is making further enquiries."

Her father David, said: "We are stunned and devastated. I cannot understand why she has been taken away from us. We just want to know what happened."

Comic bought stolen antique from prisoner

THE comedian Ronnie Barker unwittingly bought a stolen antique cabinet from a prisoner who was on home leave, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Barker, star of the television prison comedy *Porridge*, failed to spot that the man was dressed in prison uniform when he arrived at his Oxfordshire antiques shop. He paid William Clare £50 for the cabinet, unaware that it had been stolen from the home of a woman aged 88.

Clare, 48, whose address was given as Spring Hill Prison in Buckinghamshire, denied stealing the cabinet but admitted handling stolen goods. When he went to Mr Barker's shop in Chipping Norton he was wearing a blue shirt, blue jeans and jumper. Anthony McGeorge, for Clare, said: "He turned up wearing clothes similar to those you see him wearing today. Although it may not be immediately obvious, that is a prison uniform."

Police later questioned the comedian but cleared him of any blame, Oxford Crown Court was told.

Clare was granted unconditional bail pending sentencing in eight weeks.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

McIlvanney joins top team

Hugh McIlvanney, the most distinguished sports writer in Britain, tomorrow joins The Sunday Times team of star names.



McIlvanney (above) has been the Sports Writer of the Year on 10 occasions and is the only sports writer to have been chosen as Journalist of the Year. He kicks off with the first interview to be given to a newspaper by Ryan Giggs, Manchester United's boy wonder.

Don't miss The Sunday Times tomorrow

Nude mice take the biscuit

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

AFTER the Booker of Bookers, a new level of seriousness in literary prizes was achieved yesterday when the Oddest of the Odd Book Title award was won by *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice*. It squeaked past *Big and Very Big Hole Drilling*.

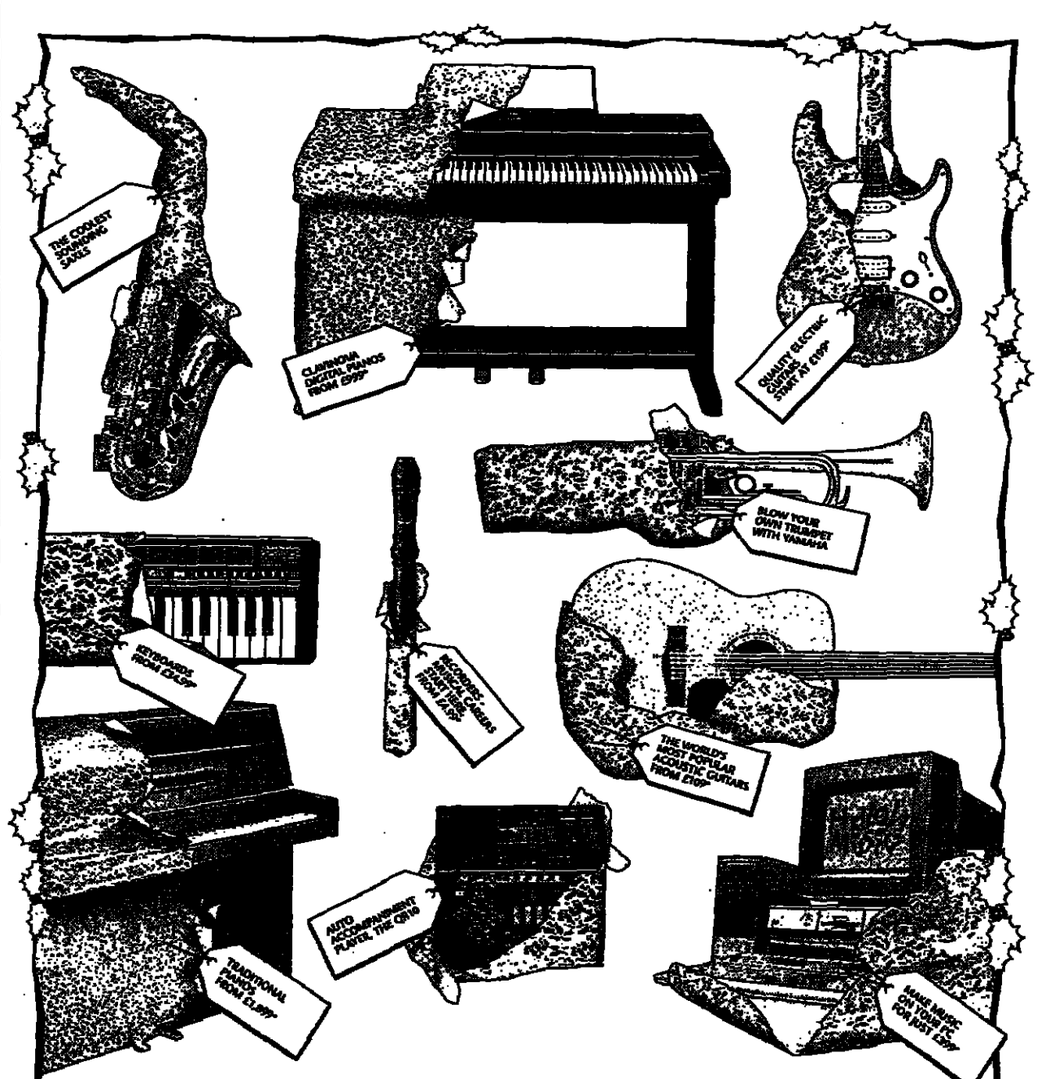
Proceedings, a work apparently resulting from a symposium on the health of mice, published by the University of Tokyo Press, emerged triumphant from a shortlist of irresistible works, all worthy of the award presented by *The Bookseller* magazine.

Oral Sadism and the Vegetarian Personality, published by Brunner/Mazel, and *The Joy of Chickens* (Prentice-Hall) were strong contenders. *Management Plan for Ostriches* (Sayce Publishing) was unfortunately submitted too late, and might otherwise have performed well.

How to Avoid Huge Ships came close, as did *Versailles: the View from Sweden* (University of Chicago Press).

Louis Baum, editor of *The Bookseller*, kept a straight face. "What could be of more use to a navigator than *How to Avoid Huge Ships*?" he pointed out. "You mustn't be too fussed about little ships or medium-sized ones, it's the big ones you have to look out for.

Mr Baum added: "We are actually very strong believers in the therapeutic qualities of oddity. It provides a little bit of sanity in the world and it's very necessary to protect that."



MAKE MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS WITH YAMAHA

This year give the present with a future, a Yamaha musical instrument.

There are hundreds to choose from at prices to suit every pocket. And thanks to our 100 year tradition of craftsmanship and technology, your new Yamaha will continue to give pleasure for many a Christmas to come.

Yamaha musical instruments are available from music stores throughout the country. So make music this Christmas with Yamaha.

YAMAHA

YAMAHA-KEMBLE MUSIC UK LTD., SHERBOURNE DRIVE, TILBROOK, MILTON KEYNES MK7 8BL.

* MANUFACTURER'S SUGGESTED SELLING PRICES INCLUDING VAT. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. HELLO! MUSIC! PRICE EXCLUDES HOST COMPUTER AND OPTIONAL MONITOR SPEAKERS. AVAILABLE FOR PC COMPUTERS (REQUIRES 386SX 25MHZ OR ABOVE) OR APPLE MACINTOSH™. ALL TRADEMARKS ACKNOWLEDGED



Dear Drambuie, I'm appalled!

What are you playing at? Your campaign to get the public to drink this fine tipple with ice is totally mad. All this drinking it 'on the rocks' smacks of American liberalism to me. Not since the Chief of Amphibious Warfare suggested landing on Juno Beach with a battalion of windsurfers have I heard such a daft idea. Don't get me wrong. We have our fingers on the pulse down here. Sonic the squirrel is no stranger to this household. But to desecrate 248 years of tradition sets my Scottish blood (my wife's father was capped for Scotland at Curling) boiling.

Bonnie Prince Charlie won't be resting too peacefully, either. Was it not he who first took the secret recipe of aged malt whiskies, herbs and honey, and sped in his bonnie boat like a bird on the wing to the Mackinnons of Skye? There to enjoy the smooth, subtle flavours of Drambuie in the arms of his beloved Flora. The suggestion that ice would have any part to play in such a warm, bathetic scenario is laughable.

Don't assume I'm being blimpish over this. Marjorie and I have been drinking your Drambuie, alternating it with and without ice. In fact, we're enjoying some as I write.

True, ice does seem to bring out the flavour of the drink. The fine malts I particularly noted. But must tradition always play second fiddle to you Johnnies in marketing?

If the plan was to make the drink go further by watering down the Drambuie with ice, it's failed. My bottle is empty.

So, I say "pah!" to Drambuie on the rocks.

And I hope your campaign ends up there, too.



Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, Rtd.

DRAMBUIE

هكذا من الأصل

Auchtermuchty up in arms over ban on nativity play

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE congregation of the picturesque parish church of Auchtermuchty are attempting to have their minister sacked after she banned the nativity play from the church.

The Rev Ann Fraser has been minister at the church in Fife since 1989. The feud between her and some members of the 560-strong congregation started shortly after her arrival.

First, Rev Fraser, who holds pacifist views, refused to attend the Remembrance Day service at the local war memorial. Then she banned Brownies' banners from the church, where a local choir has also been told it cannot sing.

Matters have now come to a head and more than 100 parishioners have called for the minister to be sacked. A petition to that effect has been presented to St Andrews Presbytery, where a special meeting in January will discuss the issue.

The Rev John Patterson, the presbytery clerk, said the petition gave five clauses or reasons for the dissatisfaction.

The petition claims that the Rev Fraser, who was ordained in 1989, has broken her induction vows to promote harmony within the congregation; has refused to attend the Remembrance Day service and does not accept that she is the cause of the dissatisfaction within the church.

It says that nine elders and a number of office bearers have resigned since she arrived, and that the financial situation of the church has deteriorated. In 1990 the congregation had donated over £30,000 to the church, which has always been self-sufficient, but this year a shortfall of £10,000 was expected.

Sackings of Church of Scotland ministers are rare but they have happened in the past and the presbytery has the power to dismiss a minister if it sees fit.

The previous minister at Auchtermuchty, the Rev James Galbraith, moved to a new church in the parish of Lorn and Mull. Yesterday his wife, Beth Galbraith, said her husband did not want to comment on the dispute over the new minister. "All I can say is that we had 16 very happy years in Auchtermuchty," she said.

The parish church, which has always enjoyed a large congregation in the town, featured in the recent revival of *Dr Finlay* on television. It is viewed within the Church of Scotland as a bastion of tradition where political correctness does not go down well.

One local churchgoer said: "It really is very sad. A lot of tears have been shed over this. It's a close knit community and this is tearing it apart."

The Rev Fraser declined to comment on the call for her sacking yesterday. A woman who answered the telephone at the manse said she would not be available all day.



REBECCA NADEN

Lawrie and Debbie Houghton yesterday appealed for the gift of life for their son Thomas. The nine-month-old boy, who is at Guy's Hospital, London, needs a new heart after bring born suffering from dilated cardiomyopathy, a weakening condition of the heart muscles. Doctors at Harefield Hospital in northwest London, to which Thomas would be transferred for the operation, believe two types of procedure could save him. He could have a transplant, with his heart replaced by that of a slightly older child, or if a smaller heart became available, he could have piggy-back surgery, after which the new heart would help to support his own. He would be the youngest child to have piggy-back surgery in Britain. Mr Houghton, a 31-year-old local government officer from Lewisham, southeast London, said: "We have to ask another parent to take a very difficult decision to save Thomas's life by agreeing to donate organs from their child. We are looking for the ultimate Christmas present — life."

Doctor tells how Everest feat took breath away

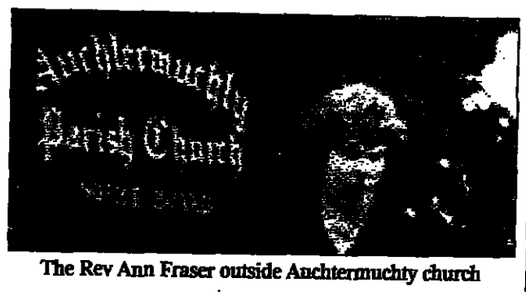
BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

CLIMBERS on this year's successful British Everest expedition defied oxygen levels in their lungs and blood that, at ground level, would have put them in intensive care.

Dr Andrew Peacock of the Western Infirmary in Glasgow yesterday told the British Thoracic Society of the measurements he made during the expedition, which put Rebecca Stephens and Harry Taylor on the summit. The measurements were made from base camp up to 26,000 ft on the South Col. They show, as expected, a steady drop in the oxygen levels in blood and lungs with increasing height.

Dr Peacock was astonished that people could not only function, but continue to climb wearing heavy packs on the South Col. He said hospital patients with such oxygen levels would be put into intensive care. "We would expect such low levels only in people with severe pneumonia or a serious asthma attack."

His work will help climbers plan their oxygen needs.



The Rev Ann Fraser outside Auchtermuchty church

Angry parishioners demand to be rid of a turbulent vicar

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

TRADITIONALIST churchgoers in a Cornish village have called on their bishop to sack the vicar for being rude and insulting to his flock.

They asked the bishop to intervene after the vicar accused his parishioners of being mean and tight-fisted and sacked the organist.

Villagers in Luxulyan, near Bodmin, say church attendance has dropped from more than 50 to a mere handful at the 14th-century church of St Cyrus and St Julietta since the Rev David Keighley, an evangelical, took over four years ago. They say he demanded funds for a new car and a computer, and then accused them of being mean.

Former church warden Geoffrey Henderson, 65, said: "He is rude, overbearing and greedy. I had to resign because I could not work with him. People who have been a part of the church for decades have left because of him.

"After the parochial church council turned his request for a car down he slagged off the villagers in a sermon. He's upset so many people that the villagers think he should go."

Roy Denslow, 60, who resigned after being a church warden for 30 years, said: "The vicar is the only person I have ever had to order out of my house. I feel ashamed of that, especially as he is a man of the cloth. I would walk in the other direction if I saw him coming towards me."

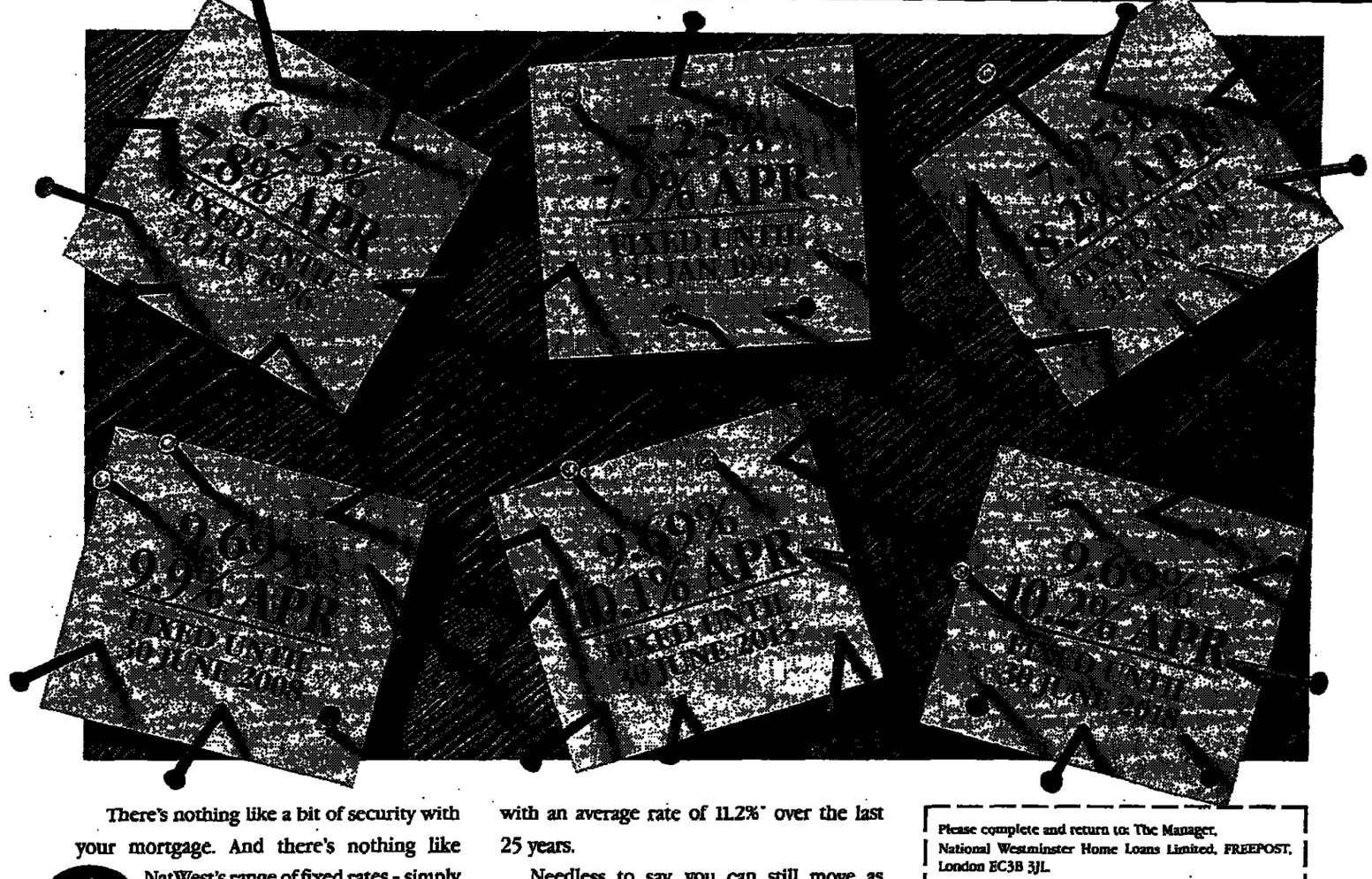
Mr Keighley said yesterday the allegations had been exaggerated. "The only thing that is 100 per cent true is that I have sacked the organist. The bishop and the local archdeacon supported me."

He said he had put more money towards the parish computer than the parish, and had requested a loan for a car. He had preached a sermon on giving but did not recall using the words "mean" or "tight-fisted". He said his critics were in the minority.

Jeremy Dowling, spokesman for the Truro diocese, said the Right Rev Michael Ball, Bishop of Truro, had intervened in the dispute. "It is nearing resolution and is likely to come to an amicable settlement." He said parishioners at Mr Keighley's other church in Lanlivery were perfectly happy with him.

☐ A vicar has left his wife and two children to live with another woman. The Rev Christopher Scott, of Christ Church, Hampstead, resigned after preaching a sermon at the end of last month.

When NatWest fixes a mortgage, it stays fixed.



There's nothing like a bit of security with your mortgage. And there's nothing like NatWest's range of fixed rates - simply the widest and most competitive selection we've ever offered.

BEST HIGH STREET BANK WHICH MORTGAGE

You can choose to nail down your interest rate for just a couple of years, or well into the next century.

Consider our 25 year figure, for example (9.69%, 10.2% APR). Like many of the others, it's rather good value, and compares well with an average rate of 11.2%* over the last 25 years.

Needless to say, you can still move as often as you like during this period - fixing your mortgage won't mean getting stuck with the same property.

However, please remember that this is a limited special offer. So we strongly recommend you hammer out a deal as quickly as possible.

Call us FREE on 0800 400 999

Please complete and return to: The Manager, National Westminster Home Loans Limited, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3JL.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms_____

Forename(s)_____

Address_____

Postcode_____ Tel_____

I am/am not a first time buyer/an existing customer.

Data Protection Act 1984 The information requested may be used to offer you other NatWest Group products as part of the Mail Information Programme. Tick this box ONLY if you wish to OPT OUT of the NatWest Customer Mail Information Programme. ☐

Ref. No. 47186

National Westminster Bank
We're here to make life easier

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

*Source: Compendium of Building Society Statistics and Central Statistical Office. Fixed Rate funds are issued on a first come, first served basis and are subject to availability. Rates correct at time of going to press. Credit is not available to persons aged under 18 and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. A written quotation is obtainable on request from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP, or from any branch. National Westminster Bank Plc is a member of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group and is a Member of IMRO.

Representative example: A couple (male and female), both non-smokers aged 25, applying for a mortgage of £50,000 against a property valued at £67,000 over 25 years on the basis that the rate is fixed for the full period of the mortgage. Initial monthly payment of fixed interest would be £403.75 gross, £343.19 net. Monthly endowment premium £69.74. The total payable would be £171,611.20 gross, including £98.70 valuation fee, £117.50 estimated legal fees, £20 remittance fee and £250 arrangement fee at an interest rate of 9.69% 10.2% APR. Following the fixed rate period interest rates may vary.

NOTICE OF REDUCED MORTGAGE RATE

With effect from 6th December 1993 for mortgage applicants and 1st January 1994 for existing Halifax borrowers, the Society's mortgage base rate is reduced to 7.64% p.a.

NOTICE TO BORROWERS ON BUDGET PLAN Borrowers on Budget Plan will receive the benefit of this reduction from 1st January 1994 in terms of interest charged but from their next annual review date in terms of new monthly payments. For the majority of such customers, the next annual review date is April 1994. Their new monthly payment will be advised on annual statements of account which will be issued in February 1994.

However, Budget Plan borrowers may request a new monthly payment reflecting the reduced mortgage base rate and effective from January 1994, if they wish.

TRINITY ROAD HALIFAX

HALIFAX

DECEMBER 1993

Electrical store banned from trading on Sundays

■ Despite the Commons vote to reform weekend shopping, the High Court has enforced the current law in Lincoln

BY JOHN YOUNG

LESS than 48 hours after the Commons approved a relaxation in the Sunday trading laws, a High Court judge yesterday banned Currys, the electrical goods chain store, from opening on Sundays.

Mr Justice Lindsay said he accepted the argument by Lincoln City Council that, as the 1950 Shops Act was still the law, it was under a duty to enforce it. He was not persuaded by the firm's argument that the imminence of a change in the law should deter him from granting the order. "Even today, the precise form to which the law will change is strictly unknown," the judge said.

After the Commons decision on Wednesday, Peter Lloyd, Home Office Minister, said he expected local authorities to prosecute stores which defied the existing laws.

The council had taken the firm to court for "flagrant and deliberate" breaches of the 1950 Shops Act, after issuing 96 summonses. The court heard that Currys continued to trade on Sundays, after paying the fines out of profits.

The council claimed that the penalties imposed were insufficient deterrent. Prosecution was a waste of public money and exposed the council to ridicule, as the store continued to operate on Sundays.

It asked the court for an injunction to restrain the store from opening in the Peel Centre, Lincoln, in contravention of the law. But the judge accepted an undertaking by Currys that it would not open on Sundays until the 1950 Act was repealed.

Given the forthcoming change in the law, it appears unlikely that tomorrow will see any significant change in present practices. The incentive for shops to make a point by defying the law has now disappeared, although stores which have made a practice of opening on Sundays immediately preceding Christmas are likely to continue to do so.

Britain's biggest shopping mall, the MetroCentre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, is set to see Sunday opening once the law is changed. The 300-shop complex stands on land owned by the Church Commissioners — the Church of England has been a strong opponent of Sunday trading — but a MetroCentre spokesman said it was "highly unlikely" that it would prevent any trader from opening.

The Dixons group, of which Currys is a part, said yesterday it was disappointed by the ruling, particularly in the light of the Commons vote. Lincoln City Council was fighting a pointless last-ditch action, a spokesman said. It was continuing to waste public money in fighting for the observance of a discredited and outdated Act.

"We would ask Lincoln residents to question why their local economy should be affected because they are forced to shop elsewhere on Sundays," she said. "We would also question why people should be denied the opportunity to work on Sundays. We are not very happy."

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said yesterday that the future of the traditional high street looked less assured after the Commons vote. "Small retailers in high streets who have to compete against out of town retail parks and regional malls may decide not to open on Sundays," Clive Lewis, the institution's president, said. "Without a critical mass of shops willing to risk the costs of opening, this could result in shoppers losing the 'high street habit' on other days."



An inmate behind his cell door at the Feltham institution for young offenders yesterday

Governor attacks 'damaging' report by Judge Tumim

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE governor of an institution for young offenders yesterday denounced the Chief Inspector of Prisons for his criticism of its management and regime.

Joe Whitty became the first prison governor publicly to rebuke Judge Stephen Tumim, whose reports on jails in England and Wales have often highlighted poor conditions. Mr Whitty accused the judge of publishing a report which failed properly to represent life at the Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre at Feltham, west London.

The governor said Judge Tumim had spent less than three hours at the centre in the past five years.

He said: "In that three hours he spent a considerable time with me. For him to be able to say the comments about both the regime and the state of the place in that short time really does nothing but damage the morale of the staff and the morale of the people at Feltham."

Although the judge praised work at Feltham, which holds 750 convicted young offenders and remand prisoners, he said that its future was bleak unless changes were made. He criticised levels of bullying and extortion, and the state of the cells.

Mr Whitty said the culture at Feltham had been changed in the past two years, adding: "I reject much of what was in the Chief Inspector's report and totally and utterly reject his comments."

He said the report, completed after an unannounced visit made by a five-strong inspection team on two days in August, did not give an indication of the work that he and staff had done. "Feltham is not full of little boy scouts or choir boys. We lock up the most difficult young men in London and the South East ... We finish up with them and somehow we get the blame."

It is the first time a governor has openly criticised Judge Tumim, although others have privately resented the tenor of some of his reports. Even within the prison service headquarters, there has been concern over his sometimes negative tone.

Judge Tumim, however, argues that he does try to highlight improvements and good initiatives but that the media is not interested in publishing such good news.

Short inspections are not intended to cover every aspect of prison life but are designed to highlight issues of concern or to praise initiatives.

A separate prison service report on Feltham said yesterday there had been changes for the better but improvements were still needed in procedures for assessing young inmates on arrival, controlling bullying and the care of those at risk of suicide.

Despondent graduates give up the job hunt

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MANY students are becoming so despondent about their career prospects that they are not applying for jobs, university careers advisers reported yesterday.

The advisers' annual review, *What do graduates do?*, showed that 2,000 more of those graduating in 1992 went straight into work than in the previous year. But the numbers graduating rose more steeply, with a resulting further rise in unemployment.

By the turn of the year, almost 13 per cent of new graduates were still without work, compared with 11.5 per cent at the start of 1992. Many others staved off likely unemployment by taking short-term jobs or enrolling for further study or training.

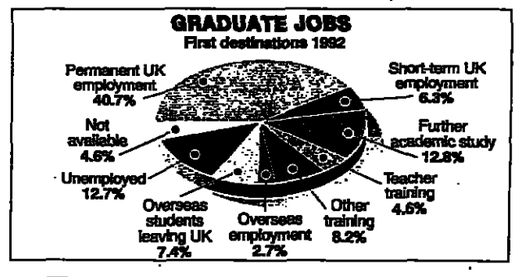
Launching the report, careers advisers stressed that graduates were still faring better than school leavers in the depressed jobs market. Those seeking work with A levels alone were twice as likely to be unemployed, and the unqualified three times as likely.

Although figures for this year's graduates are still being compiled, employers and advisory services are detecting signs of recovery. Graduate vacancies are rising slowly, and new firms are beginning to recruit.

However, the message is yet to reach many students, who assume that their chances of rewarding work are negligible. Nigel Llewellyn, a partner at Touche Ross, the chartered accountants said: "Some students have become cowed, so that they either do not apply, or they go for a very middle-of-the-road approach."

Margaret Wallis, president of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, said: "Many very able students read articles last year and thought there was no point in trying to find a job. There is no way any of us would pretend things are easy, but if you don't try, you don't get anywhere."

☐ *What do graduates do?* (Biblios Publishers' Distribution Service, Star Road, Partidge Green, West Sussex, RH13 8LD; £4.99)



NEWS IN BRIEF

Accountant stole from charity

Ian Hornsey, the former chairman of Southend West Conservative Association, was jailed for 21 months yesterday for stealing £24,000 from a cancer charity fund. Hornsey, 30, an accountant from Shoeburyness, Essex, raided the fund of which he was the administrator as he struggled to keep up with the lifestyle of his friends in politics. He forged the signatures of two trustees on 36 cheques.

Michael Skelley, for the defence, said pressures mounted on Hornsey who was looking after his wheelchair-bound mother.

Hornsey admitted stealing £24,200 from the George Young Cancer Fund. Lloyds Bank has agreed to refund the charity.

Badger deaths

Philip Marshall, 38, a gamekeeper from Midhurst, West Sussex, has been convicted of killing two badgers. Rodney Dibble, 32, of Garton-on-the-Wolds, and Stephen Hickson, 31, of Wansford Road, Great Driffield, both Humberside, were convicted by Arundel magistrates of aiding and abetting him.

Bribe offered

The Marquis of Bristol's former estate manager, Nicholas Ashley, 44, of Hammersmith, west London, was jailed for three months and fined £500 costs at Ipswich Crown Court for offering a £10,000 bribe to a prosecution witness in the peer's drugs case.

Radio awards

Four new local radio stations have been announced by the Radio Authority: Faze FM Radio and Fortune in Manchester; Central Scotland Radio and Channel Travel Radio in Kent.

Toy withdrawn

Ruperta, a chocolate egg containing parts to make a toy, has been withdrawn from sale after Stephen Brayson, 5, of Newcastle upon Tyne, choked on one.

Home raided

A 70-year-old woman was barricaded in her home at West Parley, Dorset, by three hooded men who ransacked it.

Learn from the experience of other businesses.
(Without paying the price.)

FREE



We want your business to get more from communications. BT's Business News shows you how, drawing from real business examples. Cost-cutting, working from home, attracting new customers, building customer loyalty: it's all in there and more, free every quarter. To get your regular copy, call us free now. We want your business – we want to send you Business News.

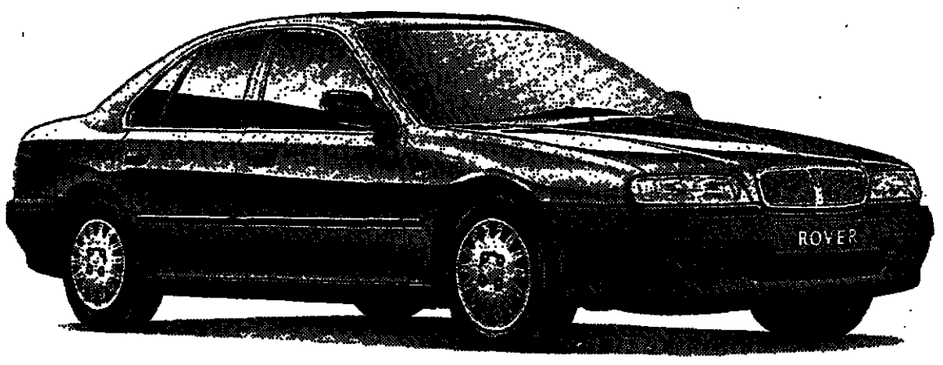
Yes, please send me my free copy of Business News. JMY 22
Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Initials _____ Surname _____
Job Title _____
Company Name _____
Company Address _____
Postcode _____
Daytime Telephone (Code) _____ (No) _____
Number of Employees at that site _____
Do you want someone to contact you ☐ YES ☐ NO
To: BT, Dept WWYB, FREEPOST BS6295, Bristol BS1 2BR.
No stamp needed.

BT

We go further, to bring you closer

Call us now on **Free***fone 0800* **800 800**

A ROVER 600
FOR JUST £184.84* A MONTH?



IT'S INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT.

*PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT SHOWN IN THE TYPICAL EXAMPLE BELOW.

CASH PRICE**	£14,520.00
DEPOSIT 40%	£5,808.00
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£8,712.00
36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS†	£184.84
GUARANTEED FUTURE VALUE‡/FINAL PAYMENT	£4,900.00
CHARGE FOR CREDIT	£2,877.49
TOTAL PAYABLE	£17,397.49

APR 14.4%

†AN ADMINISTRATION OF £35.25 IS ADDED TO THE FIRST PAYMENT. ‡PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE HAS NOT EXCEEDED THE AGREED MILEAGE AND IS IN GOOD CONDITION. A SALES AGENCY OPTION FEE OF £11.75 IS PAYABLE ON SIGNING. IF YOU REQUIRE THIS OPTION. EXAMPLE ASSUMES ANNUAL MILEAGE UP TO 6,000 MILES.

BY ANY STRETCH OF the imagination, the new Rover 600 is a car with few, if any, equals.

Energy absorbing bumpers, speed sensitive power steering and a Formula 1 developed fuel injection system are all standard features. As is the elegant, interior touch of burr walnut veneer.

If that sounds extravagant, please relax. Incredibly, thanks to Rover Select, you could be the proud driver of the new Rover 600 without having to over stretch your resources.

For more information telephone 0800 145 245 and get the telephone number of your local Rover Dealer.

ROVER

ABOVE ALL, WE'RE ROVER DEALERS

CAR SHOWN ROVER 620i. **PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES COST OF DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES. SUBJECT TO VEHICLE AVAILABILITY. FINANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH ROVER FINANCE LTD., AVON HOUSE, 435 STRATFORD ROAD, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B90 4BL. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. CREDIT SUBJECT TO STATUS. (A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED.)

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS IN BRIEF

ccountant ole from charity

Hornsey, the former ian of Southern Wes rvative Association was for 21 months yesterday ealing £24,000 from a charity fund Hornsey un accountant from ury ness, Essex, raided id of which he was the istrator as he struggled up with the lifestyle of iends in politics. He the signatures of two s on 36 cheques. ael Skelley for the said pressures moun Hornsey, who was after his wheelchair mother.

sey admitted stealing from the George Cancer Fund Lloyds as agreed to refund the

lger deaths

Marshall, 35, a game from Midhurst, Wes has been convicted o two badgers. Rodne 32, of Garton-on-the and Stephen Hickson Wansford Road, Great 1, both Humberside onvicted by Arundel rates of killing and him.

e offered

urquis of Br ite manager Nicola 44, of Ha ndon, w onths and five Ipswich ing a ution w ugs case

io awards

withdrawn

ıe raided

Minister accused of contempt for modern art



Julia Peyton-Jones: minister's motives are based on "a complete lack of sympathy for modern art of all forms"

Arts world outraged by plans to close gallery

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

GOVERNMENT plans to replace one of London's most respected art galleries with a Viennese-style riding school caused outrage in the arts world yesterday.

The Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, which was presented with a business sponsorship by the Princess of Wales at a ceremony sponsored by *The Times* earlier this week, has long been a *bete-noir* for opponents of modern art within the National Heritage Department. Iain Sproat, the junior minister, plans to close it and build horse-riding facilities in the park.

The Serpentine — one of the first galleries to show the work of Rachel Whiteread, the Turner Prize winner — stirred controversy earlier this year with an exhibition by Robert Gober. The police were called after members of the public complained about explicit drawings and sculpture.

But the gallery is strongly supported by modern art enthusiasts, including Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, and attracts 200,000 visitors a year.

Mr Sproat sides with the anti-modernists, however. His extreme dislike of the gallery's contemporary exhibitions is no secret. Julia Peyton-Jones, the gallery's director, yesterday described his motives as based on "a complete lack of sympathy for modern art of all forms: dance, theatre or music".

Yesterday Lord Palumbo responded to Mr Sproat's plans on behalf of the Arts Council. He called the gallery a "long-standing and hugely important client of the Arts Council". If the minister was indeed considering plans to close the gallery "it creates very serious implications which I shall raise at the highest level", he said.

Ms Peyton-Jones said that Mr Sproat's proposals demonstrated his contempt for contemporary art and were "a form of censorship from a ministry with a brief to support and encourage the arts", she said.

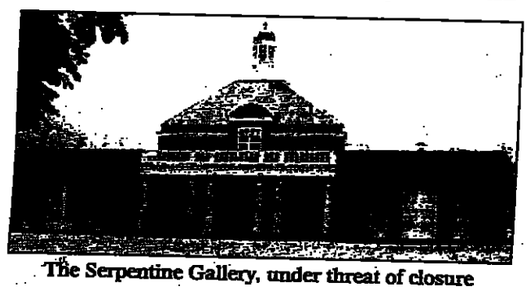
A spokesman for the National Heritage Department denied that Mr Sproat's plans were official policy, although it was true that he was looking at ways to introduce horse-riding facilities in royal parks.

The department is effectively landlord to the gallery, and is demanding that it pay rent for the first time in its 23-year history. The Serpentine's lease comes up for renewal next March.

Robert Key, former under-secretary of state at the National Heritage Department, agreed in July that the department would give more than £320,000 towards the gallery's badly-needed renovation, and extend the lease for 15 years. Initial talks ended in a proposal that the gallery pay £5,000 a year for the first five years and £10,000 thereafter.

But Mr Sproat, who took over when Mr Key was moved to the Department of Transport, reduced the renovation grant to £230,000 and demanded that the gallery pay £60,000 rent for the first five years, £75,000 for the next five and £90,000 a year thereafter. Ms Peyton-Jones said that the gallery could simply not afford this.

She and her board of trustees, chaired by Lord Gowrie, sent back proposals based on an appeal which will extend the gallery's facilities and raise more commercial revenue. The appeal was launched at a gala dinner attended by the Princess of Wales. Ms Peyton-Jones also asked for the rent to be re-assessed. She expects the department's reply soon. Mr Sproat was not available for comment.



The Serpentine Gallery, under threat of closure

Doctors test probe for cervical cancer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW technique for detecting cervical cancer developed in Australia has been undergoing tests this week at a London hospital.

The method uses a pencil-shaped probe which is passed over the surface of the cervix and emits a beam of infra-red light. The signal emitted by the cells is analysed by a laptop computer, which pinpoints cells showing cancerous or pre-cancerous changes.

"The idea is very exciting and it's living up to expectations," says Professor Albert Singer, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Whittington hospital, north London. "But it's still at a very early stage and will need a lot more testing."

The method was developed by Professor Malcolm Coppleson of the University of Sydney and Professor Bevan Reid. The machine is being developed by an Australian company, Polartechnic, who offered to show Whittington hospital how it worked. The probe was demonstrated last night on BBC1's *Tomorrow's World*.

Dr Singer believes its potential applications go much wider than cervical cancer. "We think it has potential applications for detecting cancer anywehere in the body where you can put an endoscope, for instance into the stomach," he said.

Cervical cancer kills about 2,000 women every year in England and Wales. Professor Reid said: "The beauty of the probe is its speed and accuracy. Smear tests have to be sent to laboratories and it can be weeks before the result comes back. Human error is also possible. But the probe produces results in minutes, while the patient is in the consulting room."

Car explosion 'will follow BR sell-off'

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISING and cutting subsidies to British Rail will dramatically increase fares, forcing thousands more cars on to the streets, according to a new study.

Government plans for the railways will mean 28 per cent more cars on London roads. This will inevitably mean more exhaust fumes and more carbon dioxide, which Britain last week pledged to cut.

The switch from commuting by train to cars is linked to sharp fare increases. Coopers and Lybrand, the accountants, estimates fare rises of 65 per cent may be needed if the Government cuts subsidies in the South East to zero.

Lynn Sloman, deputy director of Transport 2000, said a study by Martin Mogeridge at University College, London, indicated that 50,000 more cars would use the capital's roads. Similar effects are forecast elsewhere under the Chancellor's plans to halve the railways budget to about £750 million by 1996-97.

Research by Steer Davies Gleave, the transport consultants, suggests the costs of maintaining the existing rail service are likely to climb by £500 million a year. Ms Sloman said some shortfall might be met by private investment, but she feared similar consequences to those after bus deregulation. Government figures show buses outside London now carry up to 25 per cent fewer passengers since privatisation.

Dr John Adams, reader in geography at University College, said cars took up much-needed space. If Government estimates on car ownership were met, a new motorway stretching from London to Edinburgh, 257 lanes wide, would be needed, he said.

Peter Millar, page 16

FLIGHT of ANGELS

In 1855 David Livingstone stumbled upon the magnificent Victoria Falls and described them thus: 'scenes so lovely must have been gazed on by angels in their flight'. Indeed, it is the natural beauty of this country and its temperate climate which will attract the prospective visitor where, even today, it is still possible to relax and explore in some comfort in fine hotels, visit the surrounding uncommercialised areas such as the Hwange Game Reserve or Chobe National Park or just to soak up the atmosphere and beauty of the Victoria Falls which is an experience in itself, with then perhaps a farewell sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi.

We have selected four different hotels offering a range of facilities from the Sprayview to the colonial splendour of the Victoria Falls Hotel itself. Only walking distance from the Falls is the Rainbow Hotel, while the 4-star Makasa Sun has many facilities including a bar with views over the Falls. You may also elect to spend an extra week at any of the hotels and in addition take excursions to the nearby National Parks and other sights.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1994 - per person in a twin room

7 nights at the Sprayview Hotel

January 4, 11	£595.00
January 18, 25	£615.00
February 1	£630.00
February 8	£640.00
February 15, 22	£650.00
March 1, 8	£640.00
March 15, 22, 29*	£630.00
April 5, 12	£620.00
April 19	£610.00
April 26	£595.00
Single room supplement	£80.00
Extra week	£175.00

* Easter supplement £35



7 nights at Victoria Falls from £595.00 with optional visits to Hwange and Chobe National Park

Hotel Supplements

for the Rainbow Hotel

per person in a twin	£50.00
Single room supplement	£120.00

for the Makasa Sun Hotel*

per person in a twin	£100.00
Single room supplement	£295.00

for the 4-star Victoria Falls Hotel*

per person in a twin	£295.00
Single room supplement	£490.00

* the departure dates shown are Tuesdays but for travellers to the Makasa Sun and Victoria Falls Hotel departures are on Thursdays.

Includes: return flights, transfers, accommodation on bed and breakfast. **Not included:** insurance, airport tax £10, main meals (dinner from £5), tips, optional visits. **Prices subject to change.**

Optional Visits

Optional excursions, bookable in advance, are offered to Hwange National Game Park and Chobe National Park.

HOW TO BOOK

Telephone Voyages Jules Verne on 071-723 5066 or complete and return the coupon.

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

Travel Promotions Ltd.,
21 Dorset Square, London NW1

ABTA 68215 ATOL 883B

Our office is also open at weekends for telephone reservations from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The Flight of Angels

Please send further information to:

Name & Address _____

Post Code _____

If you spend a lot of time up here,



get the Card and earn more miles faster.

You're a business traveller, and all that hopping on and off planes is one day going to earn you a free trip.

Well, here's a way to get your free trip sooner rather than later.

Get the American Express Card. Whatever you buy, it rewards you with one Membership Miles point for every pound you charge*. You can then combine Membership Miles Points with the points you're already earning from six major frequent traveller programmes representing 34 airline and hotel groups.

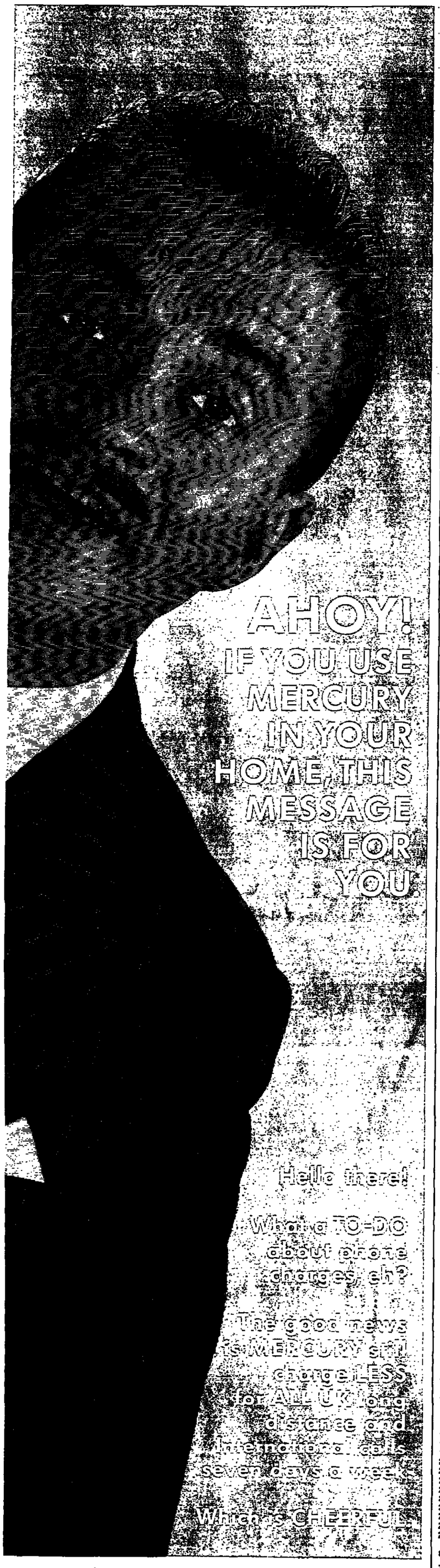
So, you'll fly free faster (even further) when you pay with the American Express Card.

To apply, simply call us today.

AMERICAN EXPRESS MEMBERSHIP MILES℠

0800 700 444

*With limited exclusions e.g. cash advances.



Mercury COMMUNICATIONS
A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

To find out more about Mercury service in the home,
FreeCall 0500 500 400.

'People get sick of being depressed so they go out and splurge'

JAMES MORGAN



David Pearl of Serenading Service — "our telephone hasn't stopped ringing" — does his party piece at Le Meridien in London's Piccadilly

Money's no object in the search for Christmases past

By Dominic Kennedy

DECADENCE is back this Christmas. Loved ones are being treated to gifts that are ostentatious, wildly expensive and of little or no practical worth.

Among the beneficiaries are London's two mobile opera singing agencies, which saw the market in élite party novelties almost vanish during the recession.

David Pearl, founder of Serenading Service, which supplies a handsome tenor, guitarist and a bouquet of flowers for £450, said yesterday: "Our telephone hasn't stopped ringing."

His rivals Opera-Grams, (basic service £120, chorus of 12 singers £800) have also enjoyed a reversal of fortune. John Strange, a Covent Garden tenor who performed this week in Le Gavroche at a party for Louise Campbell, the Duke of Argyll's daughter, said: "During the recession, people switched to ordinary singing telegrams, but now they're ready to pay for our quality of performance."

Harrods yesterday took only a few minutes to sell 500 of a new design of Swatch watch, price £45, after people began queueing for the limited edition at 2.45 am. They were after a design called Roi Soleil, with a Louis XIV-inspired design based on a Versailles sundial.

A Harrods spokeswoman said: "We could have sold 1,500 of them today but they were limited. The 501st person in the queue didn't get one."

The Knightsbridge store is 30 per cent busier than last Christmas, and reports a marked interest in dearer items. Among gifts on display are a 1930s Cartier clock for £147,000, diamond earrings for £83,000 and a diamond bracelet watch for £57,675. Beluga caviar, at £310 for 250g, is selling briskly.

Montblanc, the German watchmaker, has been displaying in London a gold fountain pen encased with 4,810 diamonds — the same number as the height in metres of Mont Blanc in the Alps. Despite a price of £75,000, two orders have been received, both from abroad.

The editor of *GQ* magazine, Michael VerMeulen, included a number of extravagant items in this month's feature on Christmas gifts.

"My favourite is a silver-plated cocktail shaker that twists to reveal the ingredients of 15 classic cocktails," he said yesterday. The item costs £500.

His other suggestions include a £1,175 custom-made English leather attaché case and a turn-of-the-century French silver box and Tiffany travelling clock, both costing £575.

"Although many of our readers are caught in a negative-equity trap, their mortgage payments have decreased significantly," he said. "I was in a City wine bar last night, and it was like *déjà vu* from the 1980s.

"After a while people get sick of being depressed and they say, 'To hell with it' and go out and splurge.

"They may not splurge on the silver-plated cocktail shaker, but they'll splurge on something."

Family Money, page 25

Car number costs a king's ransom

By Sarah Jane Checkland

A RECORD price for a car number plate was set yesterday by a mystery buyer who paid £203,500 — more than 20 times its estimate — for K1 NGS at Christie's.

Observers had no problem in identifying the underbidder, who persevered up to £180,000 before retiring in defeat. He was Jack King, owner of a string of holiday parks and night clubs in Essex and itching to attach the number plate to his stretch limo. But who were the four middle-aged men in navy suits who carried on bidding?

Their refusal to talk and precipitate departure from the packed saleroom immediately afterwards indicated they had something, or someone, to hide.

Mr King said: "I don't think I could have frightened them off for half a million pounds." The fact that they paid in cash, he said, implied that they did not want their identity known.

The tantalising thought occurs that the buyer is our own king-in-waiting. The Prince of Wales may not be one for flashy statements, but he has quite a taste for practical jokes. More likely, however, the victor is a member of another royal family, such as the Saudis. Mr King says he detected a Middle Eastern accent among his rivals.

The sale of previously unissued vehicle registration numbers by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has become a lucrative business for the Government since its first sale in 1989. Yesterday 80 plates fetched a total of £1.1 million: the agency's turnover is running at about £100 million.

Drivers — usually male — pay fortunes for configurations of numbers and figures that result in puns that massage the ego. In 1991 a London company director called David paid £55,000 for DAV 1D; three years ago an Elvis Presley fan paid £66,000 for ELV 1S, despite the fact that he did not own a car.

Yesterday's sale included 1 TEE, which sold for £52,800 to the Pine Ridge Golf Centre in Surrey, and JUL 1A, bought for £22,000 by Julia of Folkestone, Kent.

There was less demand for LOG 1C, which sold anonymously for a mere £6,050.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Belgrade tournament

EVGENY Bareev, the Russian grandmaster, won against his fellow Russian Oleg Romanishin in round four of the Investbanka tournament. The key to White's strategy was revealed after his move 28.

White: Evgeny Bareev
Black: Oleg Romanishin

Nimzo-Indian defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	Ne4
7	Qc2	f5
8	g3	b6
9	Bg2	Bb7
10	Nf3	Qe7
11	0-0	c5
12	dxc5	bxc5
13	b4	d6
14	Ng5	cxb4
15	axb4	d5
16	Nxe4	dxe4
17	Ba3	Rc8
18	b5	Qe8
19	Rab1	a6
20	b6	Nd7
21	Qc3	Rc6
22	Qd4	a5
23	Qd2	Rxc4
24	Rfd1	Nf6
25	Qa2	Qf7
26	e3	Rc8
27	Qxf7+	Kxf7
28	g4	



28	..	Rc3
29	Bb4	Rc4
30	Bf1	Rc2
31	gxf5	Rg8
32	Rbc1	Rgc8
33	Rxc2	Rxc2
34	Rd8	g6
35	Rb8	Bd5
36	b7	Black resigns

Winning Move, Weekend page 18

Enjoy the wide open spaces. Start your Australian holiday in Qantas Business Class for just £1993.

The Outback. The Great Barrier Reef. And the great expanse of Business Class.

Stretch out and let us put you in the lap of luxury.

Luxury that includes our award-winning on-board service and an exclusive non-smokers' Upper Deck. Our seats have a luxurious 41" of legroom and a cushioned footrest for you to put your feet up.

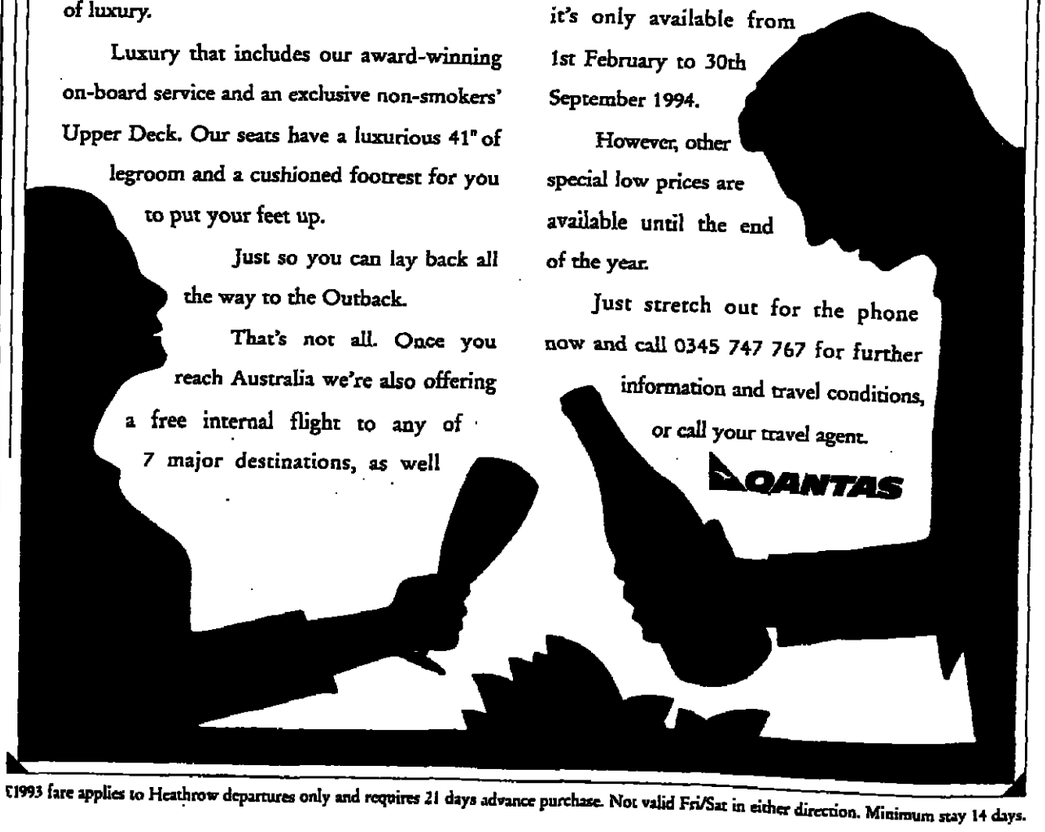
Just so you can lay back all the way to the Outback.

That's not all. Once you reach Australia we're also offering a free internal flight to any of 7 major destinations, as well as a free stopover in Asia. Of course, every offer has its limits. And as ours is over £1000 less than our normal Business Class fare, it's only available from 1st February to 30th September 1994.

However, other special low prices are available until the end of the year.

Just stretch out for the phone now and call 0345 747 767 for further information and travel conditions, or call your travel agent.

QANTAS



©1993 fare applies to Heathrow departures only and requires 21 days advance purchase. Not valid Fri/Sat in either direction. Minimum stay 14 days.

هكذا من الأصل

Mental hospitals are 'crumbling madhouses'

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

■ Urgent action is needed to salvage the mental health service, according to a scathing report by the Government's watchdog

BRITAIN'S inner city psychiatric hospitals are degenerating into crowded, crumbling madhouses full of drugged inmates says a scathing report from the Government's mental health watchdog.

The acute pressure on beds is leading to hospitals illegally discharging into the community mentally ill patients who are unfit to look after themselves in order to make way for others who are still more disturbed, the Mental Health Act Commission said yesterday.

Patients discharged too early are a threat both to themselves and the public, the commission warned, but many inner city hospitals ignore their legal requirement to provide aftercare for compulsorily detained patients.

In a highly critical report, the commission says that conditions in inner city psychiatric hospitals have deteriorated in the two years since its last report. It paints a grim picture of overcrowded, crumbling institutions in which heavily drugged patients are shunted from one bed to another, fearing physical and sexual assaults and receiving only minimal treatment.

Calling for "urgent remedial action", the commission says inner city hospitals are so overcrowded that patients are having to share beds. In one hospital, the commission's inspectors discovered a bed with three names on it: one patient was in the bed, while the other two, who were less disturbed, had been discharged "on leave" into the community to make more room. Because of the pressure on beds, acutely psychotic patients are mixed with less disturbed patients who are put in fear for their safety.


Blom-Cooper: patients do not get necessary therapy

A new mother with postnatal depression who was admitted to a psychiatric hospital was so afraid of what other patients might do to her baby that she "spent long periods standing as a sentry at her door", the report says.

Disturbed patients are often "controlled rather than treated", and those who are less disturbed receive "little beyond residential accommodation, the administration of medication and visits from junior doctors who do not have sufficient expertise".

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, chairman of the commission, said psychiatric hospitals differed from prisons because they provided a "therapeutic environment", but patients were not getting the therapy. "The practice is not matching the theory," he said.

Sir Louis said there was a "crisis in acute mental health services", but the blame lay with the managers and professionals who failed to provide an adequate service with the resources available. Health service managers were diverting money intended for psychiatric care to other services, which meant it did not get a fair share of the NHS budget.

Professor Elaine Murphy, vice chairman of the commission and consultant psychiatrist at Guy's hospital, said the problems were not caused by a lack of hospital beds but by a lack of community support.

"In the past, people needing long term care were shipped off to the lunatic asylum. That option is no longer available and those people are now staying inappropriately on acute psychiatric wards. Some are being shipped off to expensive private psychiatric hospitals hundreds of miles away. There has been a lack of initiative on the part of the psychiatric services. They are still run in a very conventional, hospital-based way."

Prof Murphy said there was an urgent need to change the allocation of NHS resources to give more to health authorities in deprived areas where the pressure on mental health services is greatest.


JOHN POTTER
"Dickie" Bird, the cricket umpire, met his match in Doodle, an Australian cockatoo, at the National Cage and Aviary Birds Exhibition in Birmingham. Mr Bird, a judge of the talking bird competition, was trying to get Doodle to talk when it bit him on the nose. He said: "I'm calling it Merv Hughes from now on"

Credo

Virgin birth holds a parallel message

Umar L.J. Hegedüs

Advertisements, high-street tinsel and shop windows all employ the iconography of Christmas to encourage or oblige us to "party" and buy gifts. After years of conditioning, these over-used symbols trigger automatic responses to consume. Yet throughout all this activity, scant attention is given to the essence of the Christian celebration. Many recall only a simplistic, infant school version of the birth of Jesus, as told in St Luke's gospel.

However, the story of the virgin birth, and its prior announcement by an angel, appears not only in the gospels of St Matthew and St Luke but is also beautifully, vividly and humanely told in the *Koran* — Allah's revealed words.

An angel told the virgin Maryam, or Mary, whose life had been dedicated to prayer and goodness, that she would receive the gift of a pure son, as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Allah. He would be a sign, to illustrate that Allah has but to say "Be" and it is; and a mercy because as a prophet of Allah, he would be given a message of mercy to deliver to his people.

Maryam retired to a remote place. There alone, under the shelter of a palm tree, she gave birth. She drank and washed in a rivulet flowing under the tree, and ate the ripe dates that dropped when she shook the tree trunk.

At length, she brought her baby to her people. They were amazed. They asked her how, being from such a decent, honourable priestly family, she could bring home a fatherless child. Maryam could say nothing for she had been ordered by Allah to remain silent.

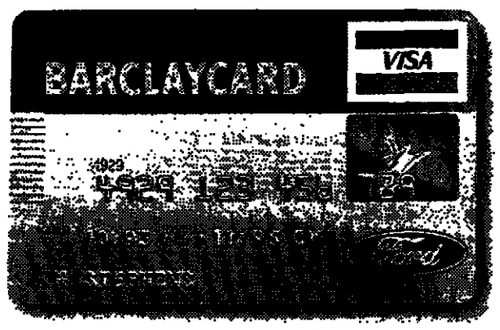
Instead, she indicated the child, who then spoke these words: "I am indeed a servant of Allah; He has given me Revelation and made me a prophet: and he has made me blessed wheresoever I be, and has enjoined on me prayer and charity as long as I live; (He has made me) kind to my mother, and not overbearing and unblest; so peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!"

Both the Prophet Isa and his beloved mother Maryam are greatly respected by Muslims everywhere. The Islamic belief is that prophets are exemplars sent by Allah to each nation and tribe.

The "season of goodwill" reminds us that our Creator intended the virgin birth of the prophet Isa to be both a sign and a mercy. In following his example, we are reminded of prayer and charity and not to be overbearing and "unblest" in our attitudes, but to be merciful to all of Allah's creation.

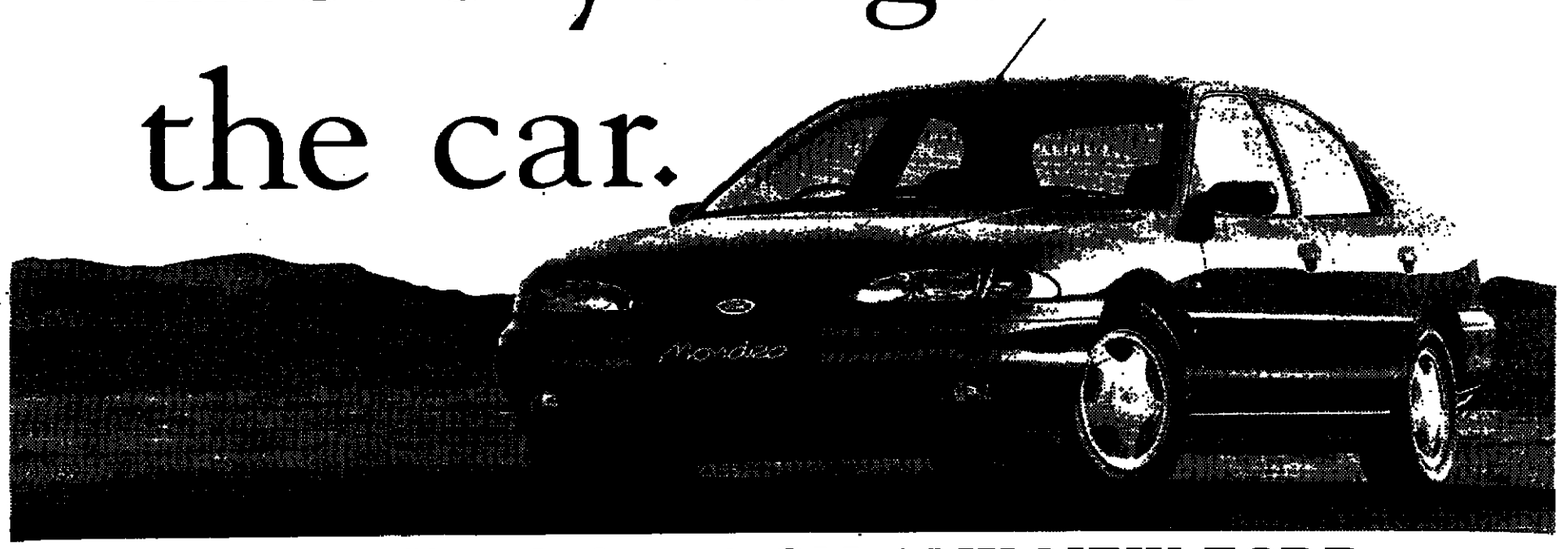
On this note, I wish you much happiness and joy as you celebrate the virgin birth.

☐ *Umar L.J. Hegedüs is director of Amana, a trust promoting understanding of Islam and its followers*



The new Ford Barclaycard.

The more you put on the card, the more you get off the car.



SAVE UP TO £1,800 ON ANY NEW FORD.

Ford, Britain's most popular car manufacturer, and Barclaycard, Britain's biggest credit card have got together to create the FORD BARCLAYCARD.

In three years this card could save you up to £1,800 off a new Ford. All you have to do is to use the card as normal. Then for every £100 you spend on your Ford Barclaycard, you'll earn £5 towards a rebate off a new Ford. You can save up to £600 a year, with a maximum saving of £1,800.

The Ford Barclaycard can bring you these large discounts, yet there's no annual fee for the first year.

If you already have a credit card (other than a Barclaycard) you can profit immediately. Simply transfer your outstanding balance to your Ford Barclaycard. We'll take 5% off the balance owing on the new card. The maximum credit is £150 for a £3,000 transfer.

Of course, if you are already a Barclaycard holder, and you collect profile points, then you don't have to do anything extra to save on a new Ford. From January, your existing profile points could count for up to £600 of that £1,800 saving.

For further information on the new Ford Barclaycard, and full written details of how to apply for one, call ***0800 111 222.***

FORD AND BARCLAYCARD. MAKING A FORD MORE AFFORDABLE.

Ford

Interest is calculated on a daily basis at the rate of 1.585% per month. A handling charge of 1.5% (minimum £1.50) will be made on the amount of any Cash Advance or Ford Barclaycard Cheque. The APR is 21.9% for purchases and 23.8% for Cash Advances and Ford Barclaycard Cheques based on an annual account fee of £10.00 and a typical £1,000 credit limit. The annual account fee is waived for the first year. The interest rate, handling charge and account fee may be varied at any time. The minimum monthly payment is 5% of the amount shown on the statement, or £5 if greater, (or the full amount if less than £5) which must be repaid by the due date on the statement. All the benefits of Ford Barclaycard are available to you provided you are aged 18 or over. Full written details of Ford Barclaycard and its services are available on request by writing to: Barclays Bank PLC, Dept SGCC, Northampton NN1 1SG.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX MAXIM CUSTOMERS

Halifax Building Society announces reduced rates of interest charged on Maxim current account debit balances with effect from 15th December 1993. The new rates are:

Balances falling within an agreed overdraft limit: 1.17% per month (EAR* 14.9%).

Unauthorised overdrafts and debit balances which exceed an agreed overdraft limit: 1.98% per month (EAR* 26.5%) for all Maxim customers.

Authorised overdrafts on certain debit balances for qualifying student and young worker accounts: 0.61% per month (EAR 7.5%).

Interest will be charged at the new rates on any relevant debit balances which remain outstanding on or after 15th December 1993.

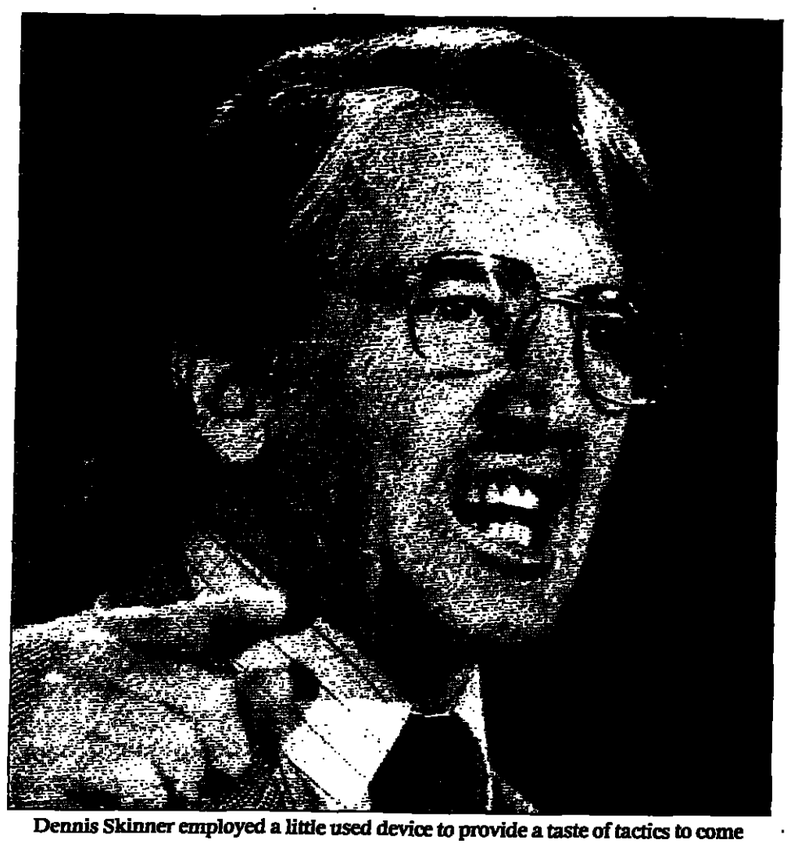
**EAR is the equivalent annual rate.*

TRINITY ROAD HALIFAX

HALIFAX

DECEMBER 1993

Skinner 'spies strangers' to launch Opposition's campaign of protest at Tories' guillotine tactics



Dennis Skinner employed a little used device to provide a taste of tactics to come

Labour fires its first shots in anger

BY ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR MPs yesterday fired the opening shots in their campaign of disruption against the Government. Angry at plans to curtail debates on two important Bills, they forced Government business managers to call in extra backbenchers to ensure that there were enough present to oppose any unexpected Labour votes.

Labour, who have withdrawn the traditional "pairing" arrangements for voting, will continue to pressurise the Government by leaving open the possibility of snap votes to keep Tory MPs on duty throughout next week.

At the heart of their discontent is the Government's decision to limit debate on motions to raise National Insurance contributions and to change employers' sick pay arrangements. In response to the Government's decision to force the two measures through under a "guillotine" motion, which limits the time for debate, they have suspended front-bench co-operation.

Conservatives, however, made light of Labour's threats to disrupt Commons business, insisting that the final week of the session would be unaffected, including the round of pre-Christmas parties. Lord Archer insisted that his well-attended shepherd's pie and champagne parties would go ahead as planned. "There will be a three-line whip on shepherd's pie," he said.

Labour leaders, however, will be intent on disrupting such social activities, as well as Government business. Last night they pledged to "keep the Tories on their toes" throughout the last week of the session. One said: "They will never know when we'll strike, so they'll have to be here all the time."

As a forerunner yesterday, a routine debate on business and industry was brought to an abrupt end when Dennis Skinner, the left-wing MP for Bolsover, forced a division by using the arcane device of "I spy strangers".

If carried, such a motion means public and press have to leave the galleries. Mr Skinner's motion was rejected by 20 votes to nil, but as fewer than 40 MPs — the Commons quorum — had voted, the House went on to the next debate, on Budget procedures.

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, defended the guillotine move, saying that neither measure would increase industry's costs and that it was necessary to get the Bills through quickly to allow companies to gear up for the changes in good time for their introduction next April.

It did not escape the Conservatives that Labour's strategy could backfire. One senior Tory said yesterday: "It means they have to be here as well and they won't like that when they'd rather be at parties."

Leading article, page 17

Little niggles are big headache for a small majority

Most rows over Commons behaviour are squalls rather than hurricanes. They produce a lot of noise, but leave little permanent damage. Labour's decision to break off relations with the Government following the imposition of a guillotine limiting debate on two bills is therefore not quite as momentous as it sounds. It is a tactical manoeuvre rather than a change of strategy. Nonetheless, the break could still cause plenty of inconvenience to Tory MPs. Labour's Dennis Skinner yesterday showed just how easy it is to derail Parliamentary business.

As always at Westminster, nothing is quite what it seems. Labour has a genuine grievance, but its protest reflects several other frustrations. The Government had been provoking the Opposition all week by claiming that, through "Parliamentary incompetence", Labour had failed to table an amendment on VAT to the Budget motions.

RUBBISH POLITICS

The details do not matter, but the charge niggled. Plenty of Labour MPs were also annoyed by the support of most of its frontbench for the compromise de-regulation option on Sunday trading, rather than exploiting clear splits in the Tory ranks. So many Labour MPs were seeking an aggressive response to the guillotine.

The decision is not unprecedented; few Commons moves are. There were angrier breaches in the late 1970s when the Wilson and Callaghan Governments were hanging on to office. But it is highly unusual for the Government to put a guillotine on two bills, to get each through all stages in a single day, so early in the Parliamentary session.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, said it was necessary to make speedy progress on the bills raising National Insurance contributions and on statutory sick pay so industry can implement the new arrangements from April. But there is no shortage of Parliamentary time.

Tory whips are hoping to take advantage of the favourable response to the Budget among their own MPs to push through controversial measures. Criticism and revolts might develop if the bills were left until after the Christmas recess. With a small majority, the Government is happy if the Commons is away. It has only sat for six weeks since late July.

Tempers have also been stirred by the partisan style of Mr Newton. He sounds like a strident chairman of a Young Conservatives' branch when he deputises at Prime Minister's question time while John Major is abroad. That pleases some of the simple-minded backbenchers, but the more fastidious stay away.

The Opposition can do little apart from complaining loudly and threatening non-cooperation. The Commons works on the basis of a number of informal understandings, both allowing non-contentious items through without a vote and permitting MPs to be away from the Commons some of the time, either at home in their constituencies or enjoying the pleasures of life in London. Labour's decision to end pairing between MPs of opposite parties and to oppose non-contentious measures means that Tory MPs will have to be at Westminster more of the time.

The Government should still get its business, even if it takes more time. With a small majority, the whips are already stricter than in the 1980s. Ministers can only go on long overseas trips during recesses.

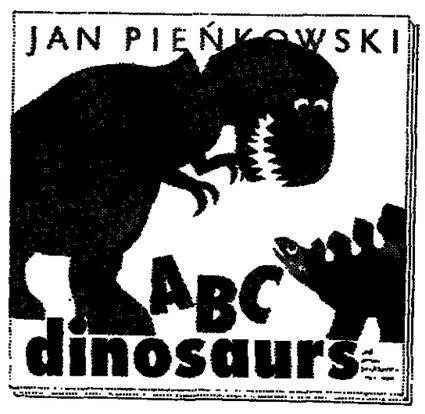
The immediate effect will be to stop MPs going to some of the many pre-Christmas parties being held around Westminster next week. There will no doubt also be stories of ministers being summoned back from vital international meetings. And business could be disrupted as it was yesterday. In the past such cold wars have not lasted long. MPs on both sides have found the usual, informal arrangements too convenient. But, while it lasts, Labour's protest underlines the strains of a small majority.

PETER RIDDELL

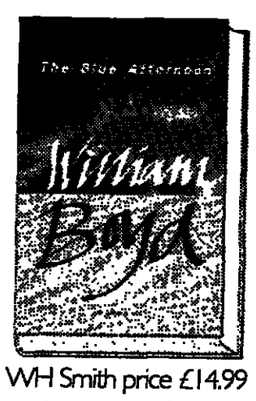
You won't find Christmas trimmings like these in other bookshops.



WH Smith price £12.99
Dillons price £9.70



WH Smith price £12.99
Dillons price £9.70



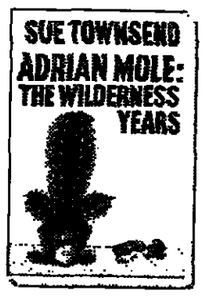
WH Smith price £14.99
Dillons price £11.20



WH Smith price £16.99
Dillons price £12.70



WH Smith price £19.99
Dillons price £14.95



WH Smith price £8.99
Dillons price £6.70



WH Smith price £9.99 Dillons price £6.70

Dillons consistently leads the way to lower prices. As always this Christmas, while ordinary bookshops insist on charging full whack, we've trimmed the price of dozens of bestsellers.

Go almost anywhere else and you'd pay between 33% and 49% more.

So don't look a Christmas gift horse in the mouth, come to Dillons.

Always a good sign.

Dillons lower book prices.

DILLONS THE BOOKSTORE

Dillons Bookstores (A Pentos Company) include Hatchards, Athena Bookshops and Hodges Figgis. 120 stores nationwide or from Dillons Direct 071 434 3000 (Mail Order). Many of our bookstores are now open on Sundays. Offer is subject to availability and closes 24th December 1993.

Notice to First Direct customers

With effect from 4 January 1994 the following rates will apply:

Premier Cheque Account

	From	To
Authorised overdraft rate	9.0% pa	8.5% pa

Mortgage Rate

	From	To
Loans up to £49999	7.95% pa	7.64% pa
Loans of £50000 and above agreed after 8 July 1991	7.65% pa	7.49% pa

For loans drawn on or after 10 December 1993 the new rates are effective immediately. Mortgage and Home Improvement Loan agreements will be varied accordingly.

Equity Release Loan

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage borrowing held

	From	To
Loans of £3000 to £49999	7.95% pa	7.64% pa
Loans of £50000 and above	7.65% pa	7.49% pa

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct

All loans	9.95%pa	9.64%pa

For loans drawn on or after 10 December 1993 the new rates are effective immediately.

Visa

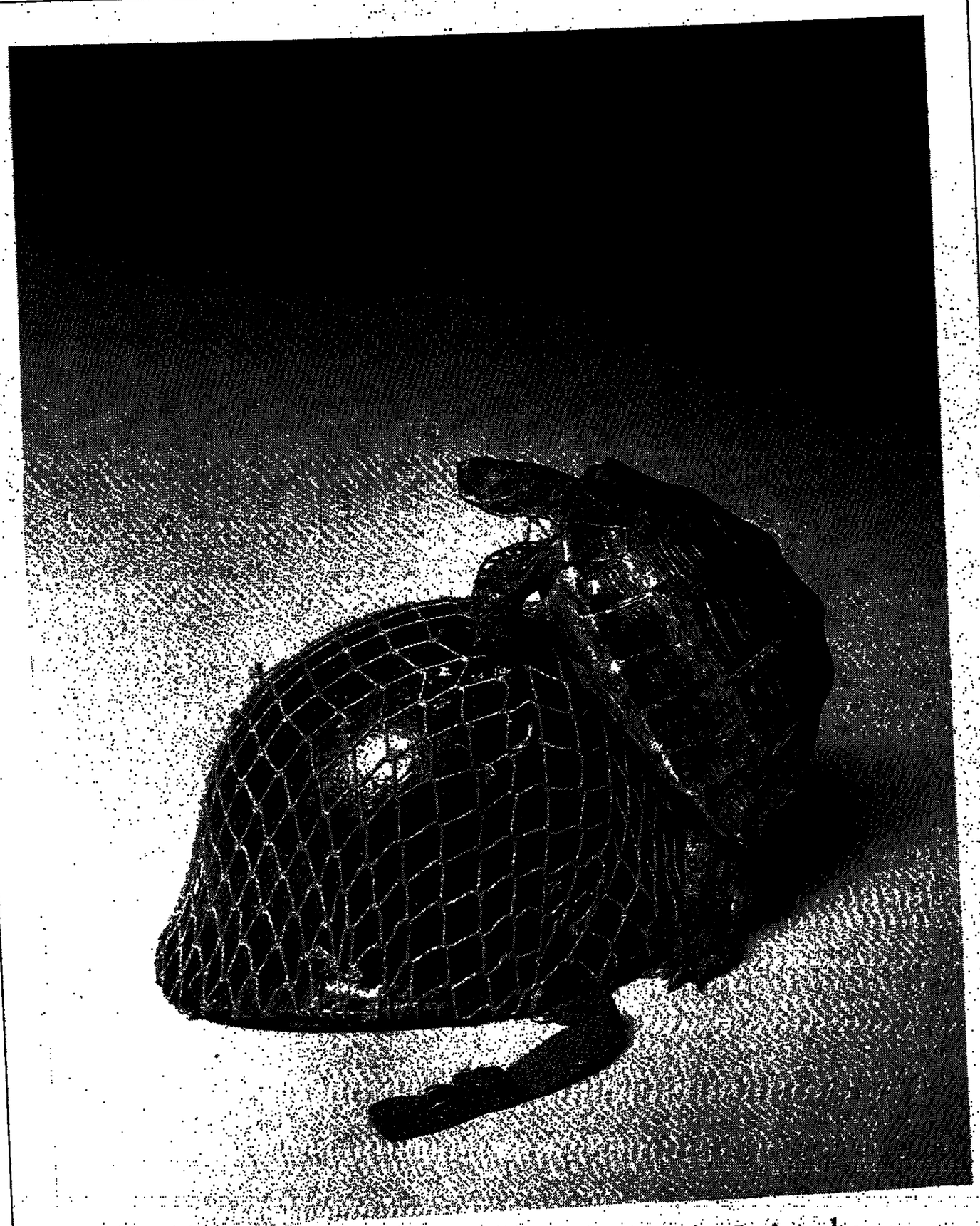
	From	To
Monthly rate charged on all interest bearing accounts	1.60%	1.55%

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc
member HSBC group
First Direct, Millshaw Park Lane, Leeds LS11 0LT.
0345 100 100

هكذا في الأصل

Newspapers are the perfect place to strike up a lasting relationship.



Compatibility is never a problem with Apple Macintosh.

Finding the right partner can be one of life's more painful experiences.

But not if your name's Apple™ Macintosh.™ We're compatible with practically everything.

We work with most other personal computers, host systems and their networks.

We can import and use MS-DOS® files, run industry-standard programs such as WordPerfect® and Lotus® 1-2-3,® and even run programs written in MS-DOS.

On top of all that, Apple Macintosh is renowned as the easiest personal computer in the world to use. Millions of people are more productive as a result and they find everyday tasks more enjoyable.

In fact, whatever type of work you do, and whether you're a dab hand or a novice in the field of personal computers, there's one thing you can be absolutely sure of.

Apple Macintosh is the perfect match.

To find out why Apple Macintosh is the perfect match for you, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Apple or return this coupon. Post to: Naomi Lennox, Customer Care Administrator, Apple Computer UK Limited, FREEPOST, Information Centre, London SW15 2YZ, making sure you include your postcode. TIM

Name _____ Title _____

Organisation _____

Nature of Business _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

Apple™ Macintosh.™ The power to succeed.

© MARCH 1992 APPLE COMPUTER U.K. LTD. THE APPLE LOGO IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK, AND APPLE AND MACINTOSH ARE TRADEMARKS OF APPLE COMPUTER, INC., REGISTERED IN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. MS-DOS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF MICROSOFT CORPORATION. MICROPERFECT IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF WORDPERFECT CORPORATION. LOTUS AND 1-2-3 ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF LOTUS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

If a product is to find a place in our homes, it must first find a place in our hearts.

Such a relationship can rarely be achieved in one advertisement.

The Apple™ Macintosh™ is a classic example of a product which has won an enduring place in our affections.

For years its makers have used newspapers to conduct a love affair with the customer, steadily building up a relationship.

A witty and charming series of advertisements have, over the years, informed, cajoled and stolen our hearts.

Macintosh itself can by now scarcely be thought of as an inanimate object (dumb, it certainly isn't). It has its own character, virtues, strengths and eccentricities.

All of which are strongly in evidence in this outstanding advertisement by agency Abbott Mead Vickers · BBDO which won a top prize in our recent National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards. Congratulations.

USE THE POWER OF THE PRESS

This advertisement was placed by the Newspaper Publishers Association.

AMSTERDAM ● BARCELONA ● BOSTON ● BRUGES ● BUDAPEST ● DUBLIN ● FLORENCE ● LISBON ● MADRID ● PARIS ● PRAGUE ● ROME ● SEVILLE ● VENICE ● AMSTERDAM ● BARCELONA ● BOSTON ● BRUGES ● BUDAPEST ● DUBLIN ● FLORENCE ● LISBON ● MADRID ● PARIS ● PRAGUE ● ROME ● SEVILLE ● VENICE ● AMSTERDAM

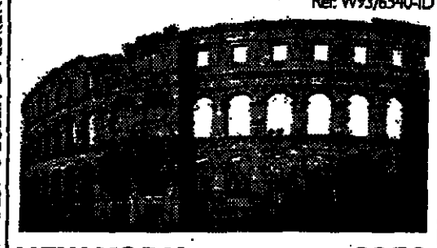
NEW YEAR TRAVEL BREAKS

AMSTERDAM FROM ~~£176*~~ £135
- Jan (£195) or Feb / Mar (£149).
- 2 nights B & B in choice of ☆☆☆☆ hotels in the centre of the city.

Ref: W93/7500-ID

ROME FROM ~~£269*~~ £179
- Jan (179), Feb / Mar (£199).
- 2 nights B & B at ☆☆☆☆ Grand Hotel Beverly Hills on the Via Salaria.

Ref: W93/6540-ID



NEW YORK ~~£384*~~ £359
- 2 nights accommodation at Hotel President.
- Airport taxes included.

Ref: W93/11521-ID

PARIS FROM ~~£160*~~ £139
- Jan (£139), Feb / Mar (£149).
- 2 nights B & B ☆☆ Hotel du Vlex Saule, in Le Marais, or ☆☆☆ Novanox, near Port Royal, at £4 suppl (Jan), £14 (Feb, Mar).

Ref: W93/3540-ID

MADRID OR BARCELONA FROM ~~£237*~~ £149
- Jan (£149), Feb / Mar (£169)
- 2 nights B & B in ☆☆☆ hotel.

Ref: Madrid W93/15530-ID / Barcelona W93/15500-ID



VENICE FROM ~~£311*~~ £209
- Jan (£208), 18, 25 Feb and in Mar (£229).
- 3 nights B & B at ☆☆☆ Hotel Bonvecchiati in San Marco or, at a supplement, ☆☆☆☆ Grand Hotel Principe on Grand Canal in Canareggio.

Ref: W93/6560-ID

SEVILLE FROM ~~£255*~~ £199
- Jan (£199) or Feb / Mar (£229)
- 2 nights at ☆☆☆ Las Casas de la Juderia in the heart of Seville.

Ref: W93/15550-ID

PRAGUE ~~£328*~~ £199
- Jan or Feb.
- 2 nights in ☆☆☆ Hotel Julian, nr Vlatva river and Charles Bridge.

Ref: W93/2500-ID

FLORENCE FROM ~~£279*~~ £169
- Jan (£169), or Feb & Mar (£189).
- 2 nights at ☆☆☆☆ Hotel Anglo-American.

Ref: W93/6500-ID

LISBON FROM ~~£257*~~ £179
- Jan (£179), Feb / Mar (£195)
- 3 nights at ☆☆☆☆ Holiday Inn Lisbon.

Ref: W93/8500-ID

BRUSSELS FROM ~~£223*~~ £146
- Jan (£146), Feb / Mar (£155).
- 2 nights B & B at ☆☆☆☆ Holiday Inn

Ref: W93/1540-ID

CARNEVALE DI VENEZIA FROM ~~£341*~~ £289
- Return flights from Manchester or Gatwick from 03 to 14 Feb
- 3/4 nights B & B in historic ☆☆☆ Al Sole Palace in Santa Croce.

Ref: W93/6561-ID



NEW YEAR'S EVE

SICILY £299
- Depart 29 December: 4 nights at ☆☆☆ Hotel Continental in Taormina.

Ref: W93/6531-ID

ROME FROM ~~£284~~ £249
- Depart 30 or 31 December: 3 nights at ☆☆☆ Hotel Globus (£249) or ☆☆☆☆ Hotel Raphael (£275)

Ref: S93/6529-ID

VENICE £459
- Depart 30 December: 3 nights B & B at ☆☆☆☆ Carlton Executive on Grand Canal
- New Year Eve's dinner

Ref: S93/6530-ID

AMSTERDAM £269
- Depart 31 December: 2 nights in ☆☆☆☆☆ de luxe The Grand
- No single supplement

Ref: S93/7507-ID

EASTER SPECIALS

MADRID/BARCELONA £229
- 30 March: 4 nights in ☆☆☆ hotel in the centre.

Ref: Madrid W93/15531-ID / Barcelona W93/15501-ID

SEVILLE ~~£429*~~ £249
- 30 March: 4 nights in ☆☆☆☆ Hotel Pasarela in the city centre.

Ref: W93/15551-ID

Please quote reference no. W93/3540-TI when phoning for reservations or further details on:

081-960 9066

Regent Travel Services

ABTA C3098 ATOL 2206

Mon – Sat 08.30 to 18.30 Sun 10.00 to 18.00.
24 hr brochure request service.

Vigilantes kill Arabs on eve of Rabin talks with PLO

■ Warren Christopher's peace mission hangs in the balance, with violence sweeping the West Bank just two days before the proposed Israeli withdrawal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

JEWISH vigilantes yesterday claimed responsibility for killing three Palestinian workers in the West Bank, in retaliation for the murder of two Jewish settlers on Monday.

In the most serious case of extremist Jewish violence for years in Israel, gunmen who were suspected of being militant Jewish settlers sprayed machinegun fire into an Arab car, killing three members of a family.

The attack, which followed earlier incidents in Gaza where two Israelis were wounded by Palestinians, is bound to widen the cycle of violence in the occupied territories. It will also place further strains on the prospects of a successful transfer of authority in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, where Israeli forces are supposed to begin handing over power to the Palestinians on Monday.

The violence flared as Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, announced in Tunis that the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel will hold their second summit meeting in Cairo tomorrow in a last-minute attempt to resolve differences.

Speaking after talks with Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Mr Christopher said the summit would be a "very important meeting in which the parties can reach agreement on subjects that will enable that (implementation) to go forward". In recent days, the PLO has repeatedly accused Israel of attempting only to redeploy rather than withdraw its troops.

In both Israeli and Arab circles, there were doubts that the meeting between Mr Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, would be able to overcome differences immediately unless Mr Christopher had managed to broker a secret compromise which the Cairo summit would effectively endorse.

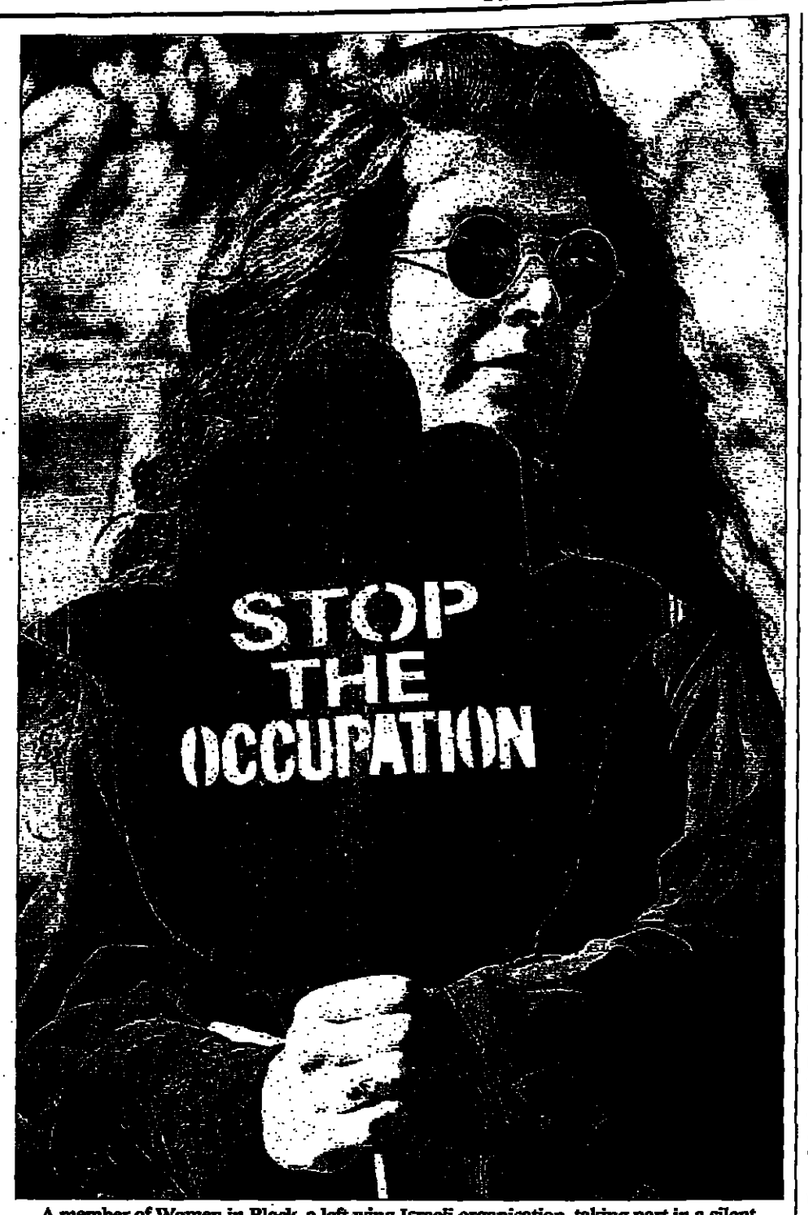
Mr Christopher, apparently oblivious to the latest bloodshed in West Bank, went on to predict that the parties should be able to resolve their outstanding differences. However, the ambush and the inevitable attacks and counter-attacks that will follow are certain to complicate negotiations when the two sides must resolve precisely the questions of security for Palestinians and Jewish settlers living in the occupied territories.

Yesterday's incident also exposed exactly the sort of problems that could eventually torpedo any agreement to transfer Israeli authority to Palestinian administration in an area where hardliners on both sides are willing to use violence to disrupt peace efforts.

Even before yesterday's attack, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister and the architect of the peace agreement, had issued a warning that the two sides could not afford to delay the handover of power, because they risked allowing extremists opposed to a peaceful settlement to set the agenda.

"This is a terrible mistake, and whoever delays or stops time is creating an opportunity to take action against the peace talks," Mr Peres said on his return from meeting Mr Arafat in Spain.

Both Israeli and PLO sources said last night that, even if an agreement is not signed by the December 13 deadline, they expect "symbolic gestures" by Israel, such as an announcement to release Palestinian prisoners and the evacuation of some posts on that day with negotiations continuing, probably for another week or two.



A member of Women in Black, a left-wing Israeli organisation, taking part in a silent vigil in Jerusalem yesterday against the Israeli occupation of lands seized in 1967

Militants fire on Cairo filmgoers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A POLICEMAN was killed and six filmgoers were injured when Islamic gunmen opened fire as crowds left a cinema taking part in the Cairo International Film Festival, an event condemned by fundamentalists.

The attack late on Thursday night in the industrial suburb of Helwan was a signal that the militants are stepping up their attempts to act as morality police. Last week circus performers in Upper Egypt were slashed with knives and chains because the militants branded their performance as sinful. Coinciding with a mounting Islamic campaign against foreigners in Algeria, the unprecedented attack was believed to be part of a linked attempt to scare away all Western influences.

The only detective on duty who managed to fire his pistol at the four gunmen was immediately given a reward equivalent to £100 on orders of the Interior Ministry. The shooting came after repeated verbal warnings against the film festival by Islamic militant groups incensed because it permits the showing of foreign films with sex scenes much more explicit than the censored or non-existent Egyptian equivalents. Yesterday Hassan el-Alfi, the hard-line Interior Minister who survived an Islamic bomb ambush in August, repeated the official claim that the militants were close to defeat.

As the fundamentalist campaign has intensified, with tourists and policemen prime targets, such claims have been greeted with growing public incredulity.

Last Saturday the manager of a travelling circus troupe, two women employees and two men were injured when six militants broke into their sleeping quarters near the circus tent in Sohag, 240 miles south of Cairo.

Britons tell of Yemeni ordeal

FROM PATRICK MAKIN IN SANAA, YEMEN

AFTER 24 days in a Yemeni jail and 46 on bail unable to leave the country, Ray Shillito and Abdullah Muhammad Hassan, two British journalists, celebrate their first full day of freedom today after arriving back in England.

Arrested on October 3 for filming with hidden cameras and audio equipment, the two Britons and a Yemeni colleague were driven to the jail. Two small rooms were filled with 88 inmates.

Mr Shillito began suffering the pains of a severe kidney disorder for which he usually receives dialysis treatment. He was given medical attention only when fellow prisoners campaigned on his behalf and offered him their food, afraid that he was on hunger strike.

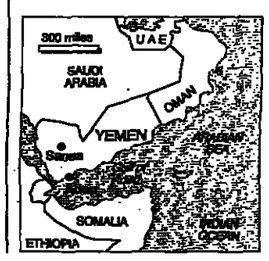
Such generosity is remarkable, since the Yemeni inmates often had little to eat themselves. Boxes of food brought in for prisoners are taken away by prison staff. With nothing to eat but bread, prisoners were forced to spend money at the "buffet", a large metal food container run as a private business by the prison's general manager.

Mr Shillito said that six boys, aged between seven and ten, were kept in a bare room sleeping on the cold floor. "The kids were raped, beaten, abused and treated like dogs. They were petrified," he said.

The Britons received better than average treatment, paid soldiers to buy decent food for them, and eventually were allowed to sleep in the guards' quarters. But their Yemeni colleague was beaten up and robbed by guards.

Some people had been there for so long, with no hope of being freed, that they had become stir-crazy, passing the hours wandering in circles.

Mr Shillito and Mr Hassan said they were keen that Amnesty International should know what they had seen.



Woman in the News

Ashrawi walks out on Arafat team

BY RICHARD BEESTON

Hanan Ashrawi, one of the best known figures in the occupied territories, resigned yesterday as the Palestinian spokeswoman, in a move widely regarded as an implied criticism of Yassir Arafat's leadership style.

The announcement, which came only three days before Palestinians are due to begin taking over authority from Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, is the latest in a string of similar defections from the ranks of Mr Arafat's once loyal supporters.

"I do not want to be involved in any official capacity," Mrs Ashrawi told *The Times* yesterday from her home in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Instead, she plans to help establish a human rights watchdog, which would monitor the future Palestinian administration's adherence to democratic principles.



Ashrawi: switching role to defence of rights

"I entered the public arena in order to serve and contribute. Now I feel that in the new phase what is required is to consolidate the principles of human rights and democracy," she said. "It is not an escapist move, but a corrective one."

However, her resignation will do little to improve Mr Arafat's tarnished image, which is already damaged by a series of public accusations of his domineering leadership style and incompetent administration. The PLO leader has been particularly harshly criticised by prominent figures in the occupied territories who have said that the PLO leadership in Tunis plans to establish a dictatorship once it returns to its homeland.

Mrs Ashrawi's resignation follows similar moves by several of her colleagues who made up the Palestinian delegation to the original peace negotiations two years ago. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the delegation leader, suspended his participation in protest, as did Ghassan al-Khatib, a fellow academic of Mrs Ashrawi's at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. Most recently Sari Nusseibeh, a highly respected local leader, announced that he was taking a year's sabbatical to study in America.

According to Mrs Ashrawi's colleagues, her decision to quit came after she was offered the job of PLO representative to Washington, but was not given adequate assurances from Tunis about what her responsibilities would be.

Although it is unlikely that Mrs Ashrawi will disappear entirely from public view, her eloquent defence of the Palestinian cause could be a grave public relations loss to the PLO, which only has a handful of competent English-speaking officials.

Mrs Ashrawi, 46, first made her name internationally in April 1988 when she appeared in a debate with Israelis on *Nightline*, an ABC news television programme. Her punchy debating style and flawless English made her an obvious choice to become the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid peace talks in 1991.

She has since established herself as arguably the world's most famous Arab woman. However, her influence was seriously weakened after secret negotiations earlier this year between the PLO leadership and the Israelis, which cut out all the main Palestinian figures in the occupied territories.

Move in without staying in.

4.99% VA 5.2% APR

FIXED FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS UNTIL JANUARY 1996

Buying your own home needn't mean placing yourself under house arrest.

Our fixed rate mortgage for first time buyers is so low you can move in and still afford to go out. Especially as it's fixed until 1st January 1996.

All you have to do is take out our Supercover Special buildings and contents insurance.

Drop into your nearest branch now for details. Or call our Mortgage Hotline free, anytime between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. 0800 591 500

NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock Building Society. Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091 285 7191.

Branches throughout the UK. Please consult Yellow Pages. Licensed Credit Broker. CR 59

The offer may be withdrawn at any time. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property. For loans of 75% of valuation of the property or above, a Risk Charge premium will be payable. All loans subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under 18 years of age. Written quotations are available on request. APR is typical and variable. Full terms and conditions of the offer are available on request. Example: Fixed rate mortgage to 1.1.96 at 4.99%pa (5.2% APR). A married couple aged 30 years and 28 years, both non-smokers, applying for an endowment mortgage of £20,000 over a 25-year term (300 monthly payments), secured against a property being purchased for £30,000, 300 monthly mortgage payments net of tax £76.70. Example calculated at 4.99% for the full term of the mortgage. Endowment premium £27.90 per month. Total amount payable £45,336.86. Calculated to include an arrangement fee of £100.00, Solicitors cost £129.85 (England and Wales). Valuation fee £115.00. Supercover Special insurance premium (District 1) £171.00. Maximum loan £150,000.

*YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

هكذا من الأصل

Tribalism sidetracks Africa's hopeful march to democracy

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN BUJUMBURA

HOPES for progress towards democracy in much of Africa lie shattered in the dust of the Burundian capital and in the terrifying statistics that reinforce the importance of tribalism.

When Melchior Ndadaye, three months after being elected President, was dragged from his palace by disgruntled soldiers and murdered, along with five other members of his government, dreams of democracy in Burundi turned into a nightmare of murder, rape and destruction.

The killings sparked another round in Burundi's tribal war between Hutus, the President's ethnic group, and Tutsis, who dominate the army. In seven weeks 800,000 Barundi have fled the country, and another 208,000, their farms looted and burnt, are living in squalid refugee camps within Burundi's borders. The failure of the democratic experiment in Burundi has been accompanied in the past three months by the postponement of elections in Togo, farcical polls in Equatorial Guinea, a military coup in Nigeria, the refusal of the "conservative alliance" to take part in South Africa's electoral process and ethnic clashes in Kenya.

Amid these disasters and many more over the past year, including a resurgence of civil war in Angola after stalled elections 15 months ago, there seems to be little hope that democracy will take root on the continent. Yet there appears to be no lack of enthusiasm among ordinary Africans for elections. Turnouts at recent polls have averaged 70 per cent, and often topped 90 per cent. Angolans walked for days to mark their ballot papers. In their capital, Luanda, a woman suffering labour pains waited an hour to cast her vote and delivered a boy 20 minutes later.

So why is democracy not working in Africa? Many politicians, notably President Moi of Kenya, have insisted that political pluralism (as opposed to the one-party state) has done nothing for Africa but undermine central government and boost ethnic conflict. Others maintain that the only solution to Africa's problems is to accommodate ethnic nationalism by setting up federal states, as in Nigeria.

Kenneth Ingham, emeritus professor of history at Bristol University and author of *Politics in Africa: the Uneven Tribal Dimension*, rejects federalism as the key to a Pandora's box which, if opened, would lead to endless ethnic strife.

"It is clear that Africans do understand democracy and have always practised it at a local level. Local government with real power backed by a strong central administration might accommodate the natural desires of people to have a say over their destiny," he said.

But a more powerful theme has started to emerge: the failure of Africa's leaders to put the interests of the state above those of their ethnic constituents and their own desire for power, as well as their inability to see democracy as consultative rather than combative.

Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, the United Nations special envoy sent to Burundi two weeks ago, said: "What is lacking is education; that democracy is not only voting, but also being tolerant of others."

He blames Africa's educated urban elite for deliberately fomenting tribal hatred.



Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, and President de Klerk in Oslo, where yesterday they accepted the joint award of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with pledges to carry their fight against apartheid to a successful conclusion. Mr de Klerk emphasised the "fundamental change of heart ... on both sides" that he believed had taken place in South Africa, while Mr Mandela heralded "the common humanity that bonds both black and white". The Nobel committee awarded the peace prize to Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk for their efforts to end apartheid. Mr Mandela evoked his vision of a world renewed "so that none should in future be described as the wretched of the Earth". He hailed Mr de Klerk for "the courage to admit that a terrible wrong had been done to our country and people". Mr de Klerk said that, although there was "no room for complacency", he was confident of success since "there is a growing awareness among all South Africans of our interdependence". *(AFP)*

Two million need food aid in Angola

BY ANGUS SHAW

MORE than two million people in Angola will need emergency food aid in the first half of next year, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said yesterday. It said only a nationwide ceasefire would enable it to mount a full-scale relief operation to reach the needy all over the country.

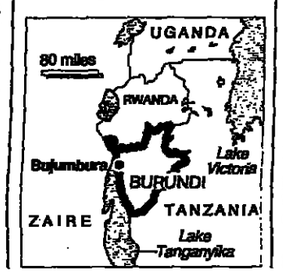
The agency said deliveries of food aid rose sixfold between June and November, partly because of a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Unita rebel movement on September 21. But much more was needed to reach areas where malnutrition had risen dramatically since June.

Unita says it signed a detailed ceasefire agreement with the government on Wednesday in Zambia. The Angolan government has not confirmed the report.

"Whole communities are now wholly dependent on food assistance. Pockets of moderate to severe malnutrition exist all over the country," the agency said. It estimated 2.06 million Angolans — a fifth of the population — will need 178,000 tons of food aid in the first half of 1994. WFP stocks in Angola stand at 23,600 tons, with 12,000 tons donated by the European Community and Italy on hand.

Around the besieged town of Malanje women routinely cross government and Unita trenches to forage for cassava and green leaves for their children, the agency said. Many have been killed or maimed by mines or taken prisoner.

UN mediators at peace talks in Zambia estimate 1,000 Angolans are dying each day from fighting, famine and disease. The WFP said its aid projections did not include medicine, shelter, clothing and other essentials. *(AP)*



Hinglish spells doom for Indian purists

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA, which already has several thousand dialects, has another: Hinglish. This jarring concoction of Hindi and English can be partly understood by speakers of either language.

Like everything to do with the spoken word in this country of 17 official tongues — and 1,652 "mother languages", according to the 1961 census — it is controversial. Hinglish is officially regarded as vulgar. It is therefore never used for news broadcasts on the state television station, which has purified the Hindi language to the point where many people cannot understand it.

This renders much of the government's propaganda even more meaningless than it would otherwise be. Even Indian Railways, bitten by the purity bug, puts up "no smoking" signs in a Sanskritised encryption that almost nobody understands.

The government once appointed experts to invent new words to replace invaders such as "handkerchief" and "carburettor". In its Sanskrit form, the former turned into a cloth for wiping the nose. Nobody remembers how they Sanskritised the latter. The scheme was dropped. The nation is therefore stuck with thousands of everyday words and technical terms for which there is no alternative.

Satellite television has brought an English invasion of all Indian languages. Foreign advertisers are torturing indigenous languages so they fit into a Western mould.

Take a Pepsi-Cola advertisement: "Yeh hi hai right choice, baby." This is Hinglish at its most base. The Hindi words mean "This is it." Indian youths with quiffs and tight jeans are dancing around northern Indian cities saying "right choice, baby" to each other, to the despair and incomprehension of parents.

The Indian subsidiary of Phillips, the electronics company, launched an advertising campaign before last month's Diwali (festival of light) celebrations — a sort of Indian Guy Fawkes night — with the Hinglish slogan: "A whole new kind of phataaka." Phataaka is a firecracker.

English is spoken by perhaps 3 per cent of the population, mostly the elite. Its grip has grown tighter despite occasional anti-English movements. As early as 1921 Mahatma Gandhi wrote: "English has usurped the dearest place in our hearts and dethroned our mother tongues."

Seventy years later, English is the most widely used language in parliament, the courts and the upper echelons of the bureaucracy. Hinglish, however, is replacing spoken English, giving India its first homespun link language.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe reprieves whites on death row

Harare: Three whites, one of them British, on death row in a Zimbabwean prison for five years for blowing up an African National Congress residence, were spared hanging when the Supreme Court said their years on death row had been "cruel and inhuman punishment" (Jan Raath writes).

Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay's judgment narrowly escaped being nullified by a law enacted last month, which declared that lengthy delays in executions could not be considered as contraventions of the constitution's Bill of Rights.

Michael Smith, 39, a Briton and a former Rhodesian SAS trooper, Kevin Woods, 41, and Phillip Conjwayo, 57, both former Rhodesian Special Branch officers, were recruited by South African military intelligence and in 1988 demolished an ANC residence in the western city of Bulawayo.

Attack foiled

Jammu: Indian security forces have foiled a Muslim militant plot to blow up the Jawahar tunnel, which links the Kashmir valley with the rest of the country. The gang leader was killed in a raid by forces in Banihal. *(AFP)*

Child scandal

Islamabad: There are about ten million child labourers in Pakistan, the national Paediatric Association claims. Most of them are employed in agriculture, domestic services, brick-making and carpet weaving. *(AFP)*

Police theft link

Bangkok: Two Thai police generals are to be implicated in a report on the theft of $20 million (£13.4 million) in jewellery from a Saudi prince. The pieces were stolen by a Thai worker at a Riyadh palace in 1990. *(Reuter)*

Ex-ruler leaves

Lagos: General Ibrahim Babangida, the former Nigerian military ruler, has gone into self-exile in Egypt, where he is on holiday at the invitation of President Mubarak, newspapers reported here. *(AFP)*

MARKS & SPENCER

PRODUCT RECALL

LADIES BLACK VELVET-LOOK SHOE CROSS-OVER FRONT

SELLING PRICE £14

Marks and Spencer has established that some of these shoes do not meet our safety specifications.

The **FAULTY** shoes can be identified by the following code stamped on the sole:

—1119
A3120

These shoes have been on sale **ONLY** during December 1993.

The shoes which are **NOT FAULTY** can be identified by the following code stamped on the sole:

1119
3120

Customers who have purchased the **FAULTY** shoes are asked to return them to the Customer Service Desk of their local store where a refund will be given.

NO OTHER ST. MICHAEL FOOTWEAR IS AFFECTED.

St Michael

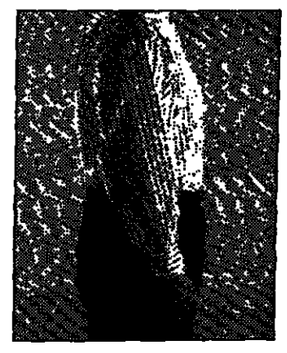
Christmas Past



Christmas Present



Christmas Future



This holiday season, give the gift of health.

This year, help him take weight off. U.S. studies prove the key isn't just dieting – it's regular aerobic exercise and healthy eating habits. And the best way to get that exercise is with the most advanced cross-country ski machine: the NordicSport™ Ski exerciser by NordicTrack.

NordicSport Ski burns more fat in less time.

Exercise bikes, treadmills and stairsteppers work only your legs. NordicSport Ski works both your upper and lower body for a more effective workout. In fact, research in the U.S. proves NordicSport Ski burns more fat. And it burns up to 1,100 calories an hour!

It's the programme he'll stay with.

Research in the U.S. shows that NordicSport Ski owners use their machines an average of four times a week. And 9 out of 10 would recommend it to a friend.

NordicSport Ski is easy, safe and it delivers results in as little as 20 minutes, three times a week. Give the gift of total body fitness this year with NordicSport Ski. Call now!

0800 616 179
EXT DT 3L3

Yes, I would like to know more about the world's best aerobic exerciser.
Please send me my free video ☐ and brochure ☐ without obligation.

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address: _____

_____ County: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Send for your free brochure and video now.



Send to: NordicTrack (UK) Ltd, DeptDT 3L3, 3 Collins Road, Heathcote, Warwick CV34 6TF. Alternatively, you can fax us on 0926 470 811.

nordic sport™ by NordicTrack

European summit sees London-Bonn axis back on track over Brussels scheme

Major and Kohl unite to block £30bn loan plan

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, joined forces yesterday to persuade the European Union to shelve Jacques Delors' ambitious plans to borrow £30 billion on the open market to finance pan-European transport projects.

The borrowing plan is likely to be handed to the Finance Ministers, who will treat it sceptically and have complained that they were not shown M Delors' plans until just before the European summit. But EU leaders welcomed the stress laid by M Delors on the need to free labour markets, cut costs and stimulate enterprise.

Mr Major and Herr Kohl told the meeting that it made little sense for the EU to borrow when its member states were struggling to cut their deficits. Herr Kohl reacted sharply to the proposal that the European Commission should organise vast new borrowings by issuing "Union bonds", saying that the Commission was not a bank and could not be relied on to act like one. In the clearest possible sign that the Anglo-German axis is back on track, Mr Major and Herr Kohl lined up to criticise key parts of the proposals and the manner in which they had been rushed forward only days before the summit.

Mr Major told M Delors that it would be totally wrong, given the lateness of the report, for immediate decisions to be reached on it. While there were some very good elements in the White Paper there were also real problems. He enumerated its specific targets for job creation — "It will undermine the credibility of the Union if we set meaningless targets"; its proposal for a carbon tax, and the plans for Union bonds — "I have my doubts about the figures and the financing method." He was opposed to the Commission borrowing and lending when there was also an EU institution, the European Investment Bank, which had been set up to do exactly that. Herr Kohl



Delors: has ambitious ideas on transport

agreed with Mr Major that the financing package should be sent to EC Finance Ministers, who would report to the next European Council summit in June in Greece.

British sources pointed out that only half of the £5.6 billion which the Edinburgh summit last year had agreed should be provided through the European Investment Bank had so far been committed. If and when they were needed, the government was ready to consider increases in that facility.

Mr Major told Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, yesterday that no new EU money could be found to compensate French farmers for the loss of agricultural subsidies under the General Agreement on Trariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Mr Major hinted that he was not opposed to reordering priorities within agreed budget ceilings, if the governments could decide which other forms of spending should be cut in order to meet a larger bill for the common agricultural policy. At the half-hour meeting between the two Prime Ministers, Mr Major was reported to have voiced sympathy with the difficult decisions faced by France because of the Gatt talks. But he told M Balladur that the EU budget agreed last December in Edinburgh had to be observed. "This is felt strongly by Britain and other net contributors to the Union." But he added there was no reason this should stand in the way of implementation of the Blair House agreement, which lays down a timetable for cuts in farm subsidies by the EU and America.

The German government is taking a similar line, emphasising that compensation for farmers should be discussed only inside current budget limits. The potentially divisive question of shifting money around in the budget dominated behind-the-scenes discussions at the summit yesterday. Foreign Ministers will chew over the subject on Monday.



John Major and Felipe González, Spain's prime minister, check their position for Brussels photographs next to Helmut Kohl, Germany's chancellor

Bluff Germans draw Delors' expensive sting

BY GEORGE BROCK

THE past two years have been a long time in the life of Jacques Delors. On the eve of the Maastricht summit two years ago, the President of the European Commission stood up in a draughty school gym on the outskirts of the Dutch town and delivered a passionate speech on federal Europe.

A different man addressed the leaders of the European Union yesterday. Instead of Delors the Visionary, the Prime Ministers were lectured by Professor Delors, futurologist. M Delors, who once taught economics, is probably happier as a teacher: the loss of interest and faith in European integration is turning his last years in Brussels to dust and ashes. But yesterday he had a captive audience. Scarcely a hint of ideology escaped his lips as he outlined Europe's grim prospects.

John Major and his ministers cannot quite believe that M Delors has altered. When the Commission President was first commissioned to think out loud about ways to remedy Europe's feeble performance in the global race against America and Japan, Britain feared the worst. M Delors asked for ideas: Whitehall's prescriptions arrived in Brussels by return of post.

The result was overkill. Long before Mr Major began softening his language on the Delors "White Paper" yesterday, the document had been combed clean of almost anything likely to cause offence. Only the most anodyne repetition of the Commission's support for a CO_2 energy tax survives. The four-day week is not mentioned. A section on the "social economy" has been reduced to nebulous ideas which imply that jobless skinheads in Lewisham and Leipzig could take up socially useful work as lollipop men and home helps.

Mr Major and his ministers may exult that they have again seen off expensive socialist schemes, but the real assassins have been the Germans. Bonn officials talked down expectations that the summit would mobilise a grand, high-spending "Delors plan". Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, finished the job yesterday. Interesting ideas here, he told fellow summiteers, but we are trying to cut spending, not raise it.

UN red tape ties up mobile hospital

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE world's largest containerised mobile hospital, with equipment worth £1.3 million, is gathering dust on a Croatian quayside because United Nations bureaucracy has prevented it being moved to help war victims in Bosnia, according to the organisation that donated it.

The hospital, including operating theatres, intensive care beds, a labour ward, burns units, an X-ray unit, and casualty and outpatients departments all fitted with the most up-to-date equipment and medicines, was paid for by Muslims in South Africa. The 130-bed hospital arrived at the Croatian port of Ploce on September 12. What followed was a catalogue of "obstructionist policies" by the UN, according to Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, director of the Waqful-Waqifin Foundation that raised the money to pay for it.

The foundation first wanted to take the hospital to Zenica, but the World Health Organisation said there was no need for it there, according to Dr Sooliman. He then discovered that the UN agency was trying to convert a steel factory into a 500-bed hospital there which would take at least four months to complete. "In the meantime, a fully fitted self-sufficient containerised hospital with its own generator was ready to be deployed in 12 hours," said Dr Sooliman.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees then suggested that the mobile hospital be taken to Mostar, where 55,000 Muslims are beseiged by Bosnian Croat forces in conditions described as infinitely worse than in Sarajevo. Mostar is nearer Ploce and there would be fewer front lines to cross en route. But Dr Sooliman says the UNHCR then asked the foundation to negotiate its own ceasefire, in writing, with the warring factions to ensure safe passage.

Among a list of other conditions, Dr Sooliman says it was asked to pay for the 28 containers to be transported because the UNHCR did not have the logistics to carry out the operation; provide flak jackets and helmets for the drivers; arrange customs clearance with the Croatian authorities; arrange to get permission from Croatia for permission to to travel on Croatia's roads; provide the medical staff to run the hospital; provide a technical team for the hospital; and give an exact address of where it would be deployed even if it meant sending in an unarmed civilian to confirm the site.

"We successfully fulfilled all these requirements. Having secured the private trucks they now turned round and stated that Unprofor [the UN peacekeeping force] could not escort private trucks, they had to be UNHCR trucks," said Dr Sooliman.

Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UNHCR in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, said yesterday that moving the hospital was complicated because of its sheer size. "One thing the UNHCR maybe should have done is given Waqful-Waqifin more information about how difficult it is. It was an initial fault on our part."



An Algerian hijacker of an Air France Airbus at the foot of the jet's steps after police rushed him at Nice airport when 123 passengers had been released

Air France hijacker takes a flying tumble into captivity

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRENCH police yesterday overpowered an Algerian man who seized an Air France airliner and held it for two hours at Nice airport demanding to be flown to Libya.

The lone hijacker, who was not named, was sent tumbling down the gangway stairs by officers of the elite Raid force after he stepped out to negotiate with the local prefect and local Muslim leaders. An hour earlier, he had let the 123 passengers leave the A320 Airbus, which was on a regular flight from Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris to Nice. The man, who claimed to have explosives, held the two pilots, one a woman, and three stewards as hostage until his arrest. Police said that the man had a criminal record, was wanted for armed robbery and drug offences, and had been barred from entering France.

The hijacking prompted special alarm because Algerian Muslim extremists have effectively declared war on French interests. They have murdered three French citizens, including one this week, and abducted and held three consular officials for a week last month. Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, monitored the operation yesterday while on a visit to Rouen. M Pasqua mounted a series of raids against militant Algerians in France last month.

Passengers said the hijacker was a bearded man in his early to mid-thirties. He rose from his seat soon after take-off from Paris and strode to the flight-deck door and demanded to speak to the crew. He claimed to have a bomb, but was later found to be armed with only a knife. After landing in Nice, the man allowed women and children to leave and then told a Briton and other foreigners that they could get off. The French passengers went with them.

Russian right poised to gain from democrat split

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN voters head to the polls tomorrow having been warned by the main reformist party that they are courting national disaster if they choose an extreme nationalist party which has captured the attention of a public bored and unconvinced by the promises of the main parties.

Russia's Choice, led by Yegor Gaidar, the architect of President Yeltsin's economic reforms, and featuring other senior government candidates such as Andrei Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister, has woken belatedly to the threat to a broad democratic consensus posed the neo-Fascist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his misleadingly named Liberal Democratic Party.

The movement posed "a threat to the existence of the nation", a statement issued by Russia's Choice said yesterday. Mr Zhirinovsky believes in Slav racial supremacy, wants to "bring the non-Russian republics to their knees" and supports a Moscow-governed union of states to fight the "colonisation" of the country by the West.

"In the 1991 campaign [for the presidency] Zhirinovsky seemed to us to be a political clown," said Russia's Choice in their appeal to the voters. "No one could have guessed that in two years this circus could return to our television screens as a real threat."

The Liberal Democrats are expected to emerge from the vote well clear of the 5 per cent hurdle necessary to enter the legislature. Private polls have suggested that they could receive up to 10 per cent. Mr Zhirinovsky's bizarre stream-of-consciousness television appearances, paid for by mysterious benefactors, have attracted high viewing figures throughout an otherwise lacklustre campaign.

Many people applaud his sentiments as a way of letting off steam at more conventional candidates. But all democrats fear that if Russia's Choice, essentially the party of the present government and its policies, were to emerge at the bottom end of its projected



RUSSIAN ELECTION

share of the vote, around 20 per cent, the radical reformers would be under strong pressure from an alliance of far-right and communist candidates in the next parliament. This is precisely the state of affairs Mr Yeltsin hoped to end by dissolving the old Supreme Soviet in the autumn and calling elections.

The main democratic vote is likely to be split between Russia's Choice, the alternative reformer Grigori Yavlinsky's Yakoblo Bloc and Sergei Shakhrai's Party of Unity and Accord. This will make the formation of a coalition government difficult since both Mr Yavlinsky and Mr Shakhrai are potential candidates for the post of president and are more interested in building up a democratic opposition base in parliament than in stabilising the government.

Russians will be presented with the widest choice of candidates yet in this ballot with 13 groups standing for the new Federal Assembly. But the election has not created much enthusiasm and the stock of politicians is low after a year in which the benefits of reform have been obscured for ordinary Russians by inflation and the unsettling effect of the October violence in Moscow has not yet been overcome.

Mr Yeltsin has kept his distance from the campaign and Mr Gaidar, whose background is academic and institutional, has looked distinctly uncomfortable on the provincial hustings.

The electorate will register three votes: one for a preferred party which will receive seats on a percentage basis in the lower house or state Duma. They then cast a separate vote for two representatives to the upper house or Federation Council which is supposed to increase regional representation in the legislature. Finally they are to vote on Mr Yeltsin's proposed new constitution which would enshrine his superiority to parliament and allow him wide powers on the model of the French presidency.



The free tasting to end all free tastings! 2-5pm today at Oddbins. Wine: 1992 Rueda Blanco Larton D.O. Rueda £3.89. 1993 Chardonnay Sur Lie Danie de Wet £4.39. 1990 Haut-Médoc A.C. Vialard £4.99. 1991 McWilliams Mount Pleasant Cabernet Sauvignon £4.99. 1991 Palacio de la Vega Cabernet Sauvignon Tempranillo D.O. Navarra £4.99. 1992 Vouvray Sec A.C. Domaine des Aubuisières £6.99. 1990 Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz £7.49. 1991 Sancerre A.C. Les Montachins, Gitton £8.99. 1988 Petaluma Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon £9.99. Fizz: Seppelt Premier Cuvée Non-Vintage £5.99. Perrier Jouët Non-Vintage £16.99. Port: Warre 1975 £17.99.

10% OFF unmixed cases* of wines featured • 7 Bottles of Seppelt Premier Cuvée for the price of 6 • 17½% OFF a case* of Perrier Jouët

*A case is deemed to be 12 bottles. Offer subject to availability.

minister who called for the

هكذا من الأصل

White House plans work schemes to end welfare mentality

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

■ Draft plans by a Clinton-appointed task force to overhaul America's enormous welfare system have drawn fire for being unrealistic over financing

A TASK FORCE in the White House has drawn up a plan to force people on welfare into work schemes in what would amount to one of the most radical overhauls of welfare policy this century, possibly setting an example for other countries.

The task force has drawn up a draft paper, which has been widely leaked and which is subject to further reviews before it will be officially handed to President Clinton. In one of his most popular pledges during last year's election, Mr Clinton promised "to end welfare as we know it", putting the issue of welfare reform at the top of his domestic agenda, alongside the changes in the American health care system.

However, the leaked draft of the plan has provoked criticism from welfare experts that its financing would be uncertain, if not unrealistic, echoing similar criticisms that had been levelled at Mr Clinton's health care reforms. The dual idea behind welfare reform is to force welfare recipients into the workforce, but to do so in a "deficit-neutral" way.

Critics argue that this stipulation would water down the scope of the reform to such a degree that it would amount to little more than an extension of the 1988 Family Support Act, forcing a small number of welfare recipients into work or educational programmes.

Under the White House plan, those on welfare would work out a detailed programme with their social worker which would be binding on both parties. The state would provide work or training. The scheme would last no longer than two years, after which, it is hoped, the recipient would be back in the workforce or, at the worst, back on welfare.

One of the central ideas behind the scheme is to break the welfare mentality, the syndrome of second and third generation welfare recipients. One target group is single mothers, who receive welfare under the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programme, which has been criticised for providing financial disincentives to marriage and work.

America spends $23 billion (£15.3 billion) on the AFDC programme plus a further $40 billion on ancillary support. But this is only about one-quarter of the amounts paid out in social security, which primarily benefits the middle classes. Cutting those could be politically disastrous.

For Mr Clinton, welfare reform could serve as yet another opportunity, after the North American Free Trade Agreement, to forge a cross-party coalition, as many Republicans share his views.



Prince Edward trying on a Stetson that was presented to him at a lunch in a Dallas department store. The prince is on his first visit to Texas

Clinton praises Hubble triumph

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ASTRONAUTS on the space shuttle Endeavour returned a newly-repaired Hubble space telescope to orbit yesterday, and within hours President Clinton telephoned from the Oval Office to congratulate them on "one of the most spectacular space missions in our history".

During the nationally-televised call Mr Clinton said the $629-million (£430-million) mission, which made a record five spacewalks to mend the giant telescope, had given an immense boost to America's space programme and inspired the world.

Al Gore, the Vice-President, seated beside Mr Clinton and watching the seven astronauts on a large television screen, told them they had restored not only Hubble but Nasa's reputation. The mission "symbolised Nasa turning the corner" after a series of disasters including the Challenger explosion, Hubble itself and, most recently, the loss of the $980 million Mars Observer spacecraft.

Another failure would almost certainly have killed congressional support for Nasa's next big project, the space station Freedom. As it is, Mr Clinton pledged to do all he could "to support Nasa and to support the space programme". After a three-hour delay caused by a faulty computer link, the $2 billion telescope, launched in 1990, was released from the shuttle's 50ft arm 369 miles above southwestern Africa at 10.26am London time yesterday, and the Endeavour set off home.

The mood at Nasa's Houston space centre was one of elation tempered by caution. The 11-day mission will not be over until the shuttle lands early on Monday morning. It will be six to eight weeks before the first pictures are received from Hubble and Nasa can tell if the repair work has been successful.

Endeavour's mission has been the most demanding in more than a decade and the biggest space repair job ever undertaken. Four of the astronauts spent a total of 35 hours and 28 minutes outside the shuttle, giving Hubble new optics to correct its myopia and repairing its solar panels, failed gyroscopes and diminished computer memory.

If the repairs work, Hubble should be able to see stars ten billion light years away instead of four, marking a quantum leap for astronomy and for man's attempts to unlock secrets about the size and age of the universe.

Chile vote severs link with era of Pinochet

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN SANTIAGO

CHILEANS cast their votes today in general elections widely hailed as a step towards strenghthening their fledgeling democracy, leaving behind the legacy of General Augusto Pinochet's 17-year military dictatorship. Most claim they know who will be their next President.

Opinion polls show that Senator Eduardo Frei, the candidate for the ruling centre-left Democratic Coalition, is the favourite and is expected to gain 58 per cent of the vote. His father was President between 1958 and 1964, while Señor Frei's own political career hitherto had been low-key.

He is considered the natural successor to President Aylwin's four-year government. The coalition, made up of Socialist and centre parties, led Chile's transition to democracy in 1989 after nearly two decades of brutal military rule under General Pinochet in which more than 2,000 people "disappeared" in government purges.



Pinochet: military rule for 17 years

Señor Aylwin's government has also been popular for what some call an "economic miracle". Analysts say Chileans' main concern is for continued liberal reforms and a free market economy.

The biggest test for the new government will be to widen the split with the military. General Pinochet has placed eight of his staunch supporters permanently in the Senate.

Megawatt Christmas makes folk see red

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

DECKING the halls with boughs of holly may be in the spirit of Christmas, but putting up three million red Christmas lights is most definitely not, according to Jennings Osborne's neighbours.

Mr Osborne is an eccentric millionaire who has chosen to decorate his large mansion in Little Rock, Arkansas, with enough red bulbs to illuminate a battlefield. When switched on, the Osborne house is visible from five miles away, a strange apparition of Santa, reindeer, a train, wise men and a Mickey Mouse extending 80ft over the roof.

The millionaire and his wife, Mitzi, who have gradually expanded their collection of Christmas lights by a few hundred thousand every year, say the display is an expression of religious belief and benefits the community.

Their neighbours, however, claim the miles of dazzling bulbs are a public nuisance, often making sleep impossible and drawing huge crowds with cars, children and rubbish.

The last straw for the residents of Robinwood Drive came when Mr Osborne, who made his fortune testing pharmaceutical products, announced that he was buying the houses on either side of his property to enlarge the display, and shipping in 1.5 million more bulbs to create a Nativity scene with 40 more angels.

Six neighbours sued, claiming that Mr Osborne was driving down house prices, infringing their privacy, causing traffic jams and encouraging litter.

Pulaski County chancellor Ellen Brantley finally ruled that the Osbornes should limit the amount of time the lights are on, employ security guards and provide litter bins.

UC SERIES — E SERIES



*E200, E300, E500, E700, UC15, UC5HI, UC40HI, UC2HI.

£100 FREE ACCESSORIES

Here's an offer well worth taking note of – buy a Canon Camcorder* and you can claim a bundle of accessories worth at least £100, **ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

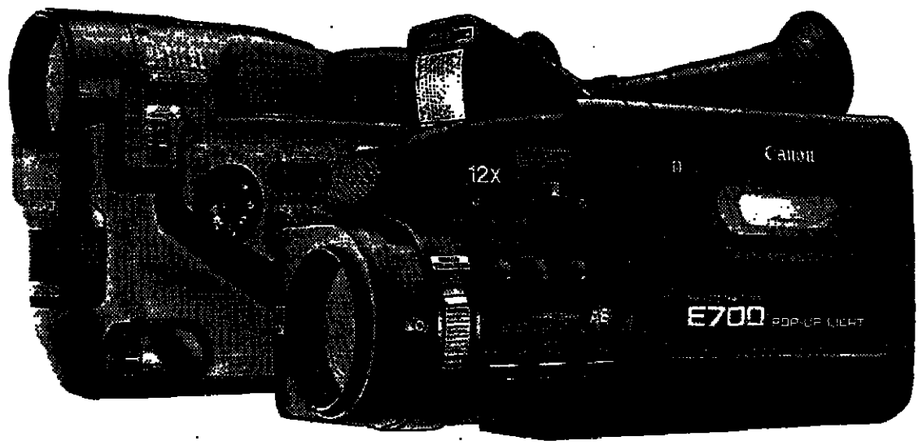
Choose any one of eight fabulous camcorders from our award-winning range including the value for money E300 – the world's first camcorder with built-in "pop-up" light, the exceptional E700 with revolutionary Optical Image Stabilisation and, for the more serious minded enthusiast, the ultra slim, ultra sophisticated UC5Hi.

Whichever model you opt for, you can rest assured that you'll be getting a superb quality, unbeatable value camcorder. PLUS you'll be saving yourself over £100 on a range of useful accessories which will give you everything you need to make the best camcorders even better.

So, if your thinking of buying a camcorder, it definitely pays to buy Canon.

	Camcorder Carry Case	Standard Battery Pack	High-Power Battery Pack	Cleaning Cassette	1 x 60 min 8mm Tape	2 x 60 min Hi 8 tape	Lens Cleaning Cloth
E200	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
E300	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
E500	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
E700	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
UC15	Supplied as standard		✓	✓		✓	✓
UC5Hi	Supplied as standard		✓	✓		✓	✓
UC40Hi	Supplied as standard		✓	✓		✓	✓
UC2Hi	Supplied as standard		✓	✓		✓	✓

For full details pick up a leaflet at participating dealers. Offer ends 31st January 1994. For further details on these camcorders phone free on 0800 616417. For expert technical advice call 0891 310210. Calls cost: 36p/min cheap rate, 48p/min at all other times. Service provider: The Sure Group, 9-11 Richmond Buildings, Dean Street, London W1V 5AF.



*Offer applies to the following camcorders: E200, E300, E500, E700, UC5HI, UC15, UC40HI, UC2HI.

Canon

WE TAKE THE MOST MOVING PICTURES

EXIHi — N°1 CAMCORDER FORMAT



Departures between Dec 15 - 31 (Dec 15 - 24 in Venice)

	3 nights	2 nights
ROME:	£246	£230
FLORENCE:	£258	£238
VENICE:	£276	£250
MILAN:	£246	

PRICES SHOWN ARE PER PERSON & INCLUDE:-
- Return flights from Gatwick
- Twin bedded accomodation, bed & continental breakfast in a 3 star hotel (4 star in Venice)
- Transfers on arrival and departure in Rome, Florence and Venice.

See your travel agent or call Italian Escapades on

ITALIAN Escapades

The Air Travel Group (Holidays) Ltd ABTA 97275 ATOL 2398

081-748 2661

LIE. CODE EB

This week's killings on a train have shown the grotesque inadequacy of a new statutory delay before a gun may be bought

Alexander Chancellor in New York

The slaughter on the Long Island Rail Road, in which a madman consumed by racial hatred shot five people dead and wounded 18 others on a commuter train this week, has cast a gloomy pall over the festive season in New York. The topic of violence is never far from people's lips in a city which has to endure some 2,000 murders a year, but there is nothing more frightening than a multiple murder without any rational motive.

It is impossible to make sense of it or to see what precautions could have been taken against it. In their fear, many New Yorkers who do not already possess a gun for self-defence will doubtless go out and buy one now, so adding to the already vast armoury available to citizens for their mutual destruction.

One thing which Colin Ferguson did with his wanton act was draw attention to the inadequacy of the new gun-control measure known as the Brady Bill (named after James Brady, the former White House press secretary who was wounded and permanently disabled in an assassination attempt on President Reagan 13 years ago), which was signed into law by President Clinton in a solemn ceremony last week.

The Brady Bill imposes a nationwide five-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun, so that the police may have time to check the records of the prospective purchaser to see if he or she has a history of crime or mental instability. But in California, where Mr Ferguson bought his gun quite legally earlier this year, there is already a 15-day waiting period in force, and this did not prevent him from acquiring it. The need for tougher gun controls could not have been more brutally illustrated.

There have always been mad people around who suddenly get seized with blood lust, but their destructive capacity has grown as weapons have become more sophisticated. According to a survey reported in *The New York Times*, incidents in which four or more people are murdered now occur about 30 times a year in the United States. There is no realistic approach to this problem except through gun control.

While most people understand this, and the majority of Americans are now shown in opinion polls to favour tougher curbs on the sale of firearms, the Clinton administration has yet to throw its



full weight behind any proposal for putting them into effect. On the day after the massacre on the Long Island Rail Road, President Clinton ordered the Justice Department to study a plan that would oblige all gun-buyers to have licences, but he did not commit himself to it. He is clearly wary of the political risks involved.

The National Rifle Association, which would have us believe the nonsense that guns and shootings are somehow unrelated, still has an indecent amount of influence over Republicans in the Congress, who managed to hold up enactment of the popular Brady Bill for more than two years.

At the same time, recent elections have sent disturbing signals to the White House. In both Virginia and New Jersey, Democratic candidates for governor who supported stronger gun-control measures were defeated by conservative Republicans who argued that the way to control crime was through longer prison sentences and abolishing parole.

Nevertheless, the conditions for defeating the gun lobby have never been better than they are today. The passage of the Brady Bill, however ineffective it may prove to be, was a major setback for the National Rifle Association and may discourage its Republican friends from holding out against other popular gun-control measures that come before Congress. And the plan for a national licensing system for gun-buyers was proposed by a Republican, the mayor-elect of New York, Rudolph Giuliani. Another public supporter of tighter controls is the new head of the FBI, Louis Freeh.

The lines along which the administration is thinking were set out by the Attorney-General, Janet Reno, at a press conference this week, when she said: "I think it should be at least as hard to get a licence to possess a gun as it is to drive an automobile. I don't think somebody should have a gun unless they can demonstrate that they know how to safely and lawfully use it, that they are capable of safely and lawfully using it, and that they are willing to safely and lawfully use it."

The difficulty, of course, is to formulate specific proposals which would both be effective and stand a decent chance of getting through Congress, and President Clinton has yet to arrive at that point. But he said this week: "I think we can do something. I think the American people are tired of hurting and tired of feeling insecure and tired of violence."

He is certainly right about the national mood, to which Mr Ferguson, with his loathsome act, has made a small but significant contribution.

Without action to save the capital soon, it will lose its international status, says **Peter Millar**

Do we want a London to be proud of?

Hell, wrote Percy Bysshe Shelley some 175 years ago, "is a city much like London, a populous and smoky city". Complaining about the capital is nothing new.

The Clean Air Act solved much of the smoke problem — Shelley did not foresee the curse of carbon monoxide poisoning from car exhausts that would take its place — but with hindsight we might well consider that Shelley experienced London in its golden age. For the thousands trapped in underground tunnels during last week's power failure on the Tube, the millions who daily struggle in from the suburbs and dormitories of the South-East crammed into cattle trucks, or stuck in bumper-to-bumper jams through run-down shopping streets unsuited to heavy traffic, there is no doubt: London is well beyond its "best by" date.

The recent Birmingham exhibition of Canaletto's English paintings, with the celebrated view of the city seen through the newly-erected Westminster Bridge, was widely praised as an inspired vision of "a city in the making". But who dares decide when it is finished? A city is a living thing with growth seasons, moods of exuberance and depression, but also prone to arteriosclerosis and even death. Canaletto's vision, with St Paul's riding like some elephantine piece of contemporary modernism above a choppy sea of Gothic spires, looks idyllic compared to the same scene today, cluttered with concrete slabs.

> The rest of the country seems content to see the city's fat cats taken down a peg

For the millions of visitors to Britain each year, there is no more potent symbol of the nation than the shambling anarchic, incompetent chaos of the capital. Few of them may have Canaletto's touch with the brush, but the camcorders on their shoulders take home a depressingly accurate image of a city not so much in motion as in paralysis. Once the great global metropolis, London is in sorry decline, and the rest of the country, content to see the fat cats of the capital taken down a peg, seems not to give a damn. Has there ever been a clearer example of a country cutting off its nose to spite its face?

I make no apology to provincial readers for the minutiae that follow. Together they make up a patchwork of near-despair. You out there with the luxury of a garden and garage, who drive to work in a few minutes and think a 200-yard tailback is a traffic jam, have no idea of the sheer misery of spending 45 minutes being asphixiated in the Blackwall tunnel or choking in deodorant fumes on a slow train stalled outside Charing Cross; of staring in blank-faced crowds of tired commuters at display boards detailing that evening's cancellations or listening in wry despondency to the "eye-in-the-sky" hovering over the Mouth of Hell, euphemistically described as the Hanger Lane Giratory System. On a daily basis!

Things are being done, but only piecemeal. The Chancellor's Budget gave the long-awaited go-ahead for the fast-train line linking Heathrow airport to Paddington. So far, so good, but it is too late and too little. It will not be followed through with Crossrail, the scheme to bring the line on into the City, the business heart of the country. Meanwhile, the extension to the Jubilee Underground line will go ahead in parallel to the extension to the woefully inadequate Docklands Light Railway to Beckton in the East End, in homage to Michael Heseltine's insane dream of linear expansion east along the north bank of the Thames. This is pushing the metropolis in a direction it refuses to go, providing access for tens of thousands of working-class and skilled labourers to the white-collar, middle-class workplaces of the Isle of Dogs. Infrastructure should respond to social need, not be a tool of social engineering.

It is tempting to say that any development of the Docklands megalomania project is throwing good money after bad at a time when acres of office space are still empty in central areas, the Tube is in disrepair, the roads are saturated and the train service is a bad joke. One piece of sanity is extending the Docklands railway across the river to Lewisham in neglected South-East London (but I am biased: I live nearby), where it will at last meet up with trains from Orpington, Hayes and the other middle-class outer suburbs, inhabitants of which might actually match the available job profiles. But British Rail, as part of its pre-privatisation streamlining, has reduced its service. Meanwhile, Lewisham borough council is pressing on, autonomously, with a pedestrianisation scheme which will make local shopping more pleasant but has already constricted the arteries by which traffic flows into Town. No outer borough likes being a clogged conduit for commuter traffic to the centre, but tightening the noose in one place only increases the squeeze elsewhere.

I could go on and on. The point is that every inhabitant of the capital has a similar tale of local woe. As Ken Livingstone remarked in this newspaper in 1987: "The problem is that many MPs never see the London that exists beyond the wine bars and brothels of Westminster." As leader of the Greater London Council, Livingstone briefly won favour even with many traditional Tory-voting Londoners by slashing Tube and bus fares and campaigning for better services. Investment, if not subsidy, is desperately needed for the capital's infrastructure. If Britain wants a London to be proud of, rather than an overblown strangled Victorian shanty town, it has to be prepared to pay. The much-maligned Mr Livingstone saw the problems, but by turning County Hall into sleeping quarters for striking miners, he lost sight of London and betrayed his own voters.

The need has never been greater for a unitary task-force, lean but powerful, to coordinate major open-heart surgery on London before its all too late. It soon will be. Every other European nation is plugging its capital with every franc, Deutschmark and guilder it can muster. Already Amsterdam's Schiphol airport is mounting a challenge to Heathrow as Europe's intercontinental gateway. Berlin's position after four decades of division is anomalous, but Frankfurt, Germany's business capital, has already put its tanks on London's financial lawn and indicated its plans for advance. Paris, whatever one might think of President Mitterrand's architectural *folies de grandeur* has reinforced its image as the "city of light" on Europe's cultural cutting edge.

All these cities have efficient management and access to huge resources. They are regarded not just as national symbols, but as capital investments. London needs loving care fast, or the weeds of neglect will throttle it. If the face we present to the world is a moribund metropolis, we must not be surprised if the world looks away.

Whitehall's costliest farce

Lord Justice Scott is taking a mighty judicial sledgehammer to a political nut



Lord Justice Scott (seated) with his sidekick, Presiley Lamorna Baxendale, at the start of their elaborate enquiry

Consider Lord Justice Scott and his admired assistant, Presiley Lamorna Baxendale. They do "tragedy, comedy . . . historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, tragical-historical-pastoral-comical . . ." They are not Hamlet's players, but that modern Mahabharata, the Scott enquiry, an interminable saga with walk-on parts for the famous. There was never a greater farce.

Last week's spectacular was orchestrated like a cast-change at Covent Garden. Lady Thatcher was greeted with popping cameras at the doorstep. Miss Baxendale took six hours to get from her as little information as Neil Kinnock used to get in six minutes at far less cost to the taxpayer. The Scott enquiry was set up a year ago after the acquittal of certain individuals in the Matrix Churchill machine-tools-for-Iraq affair. John Major was under political pressure at the time, and a stronger man (or woman) might have brazened out the brief Commons uproar. He turned to a lawyer and chose badly. The Scott enquiry has lost all sense of proportion. Lawyers are rarely as popular as when attacking ministers. These lawyers, high on politics, publicity and paperwork seem determined to keep their show running for ever.

The enquiry was supposed to be a quick one-man in-and-out investigation, reporting to the industry department. It is not investigating a crime. It is not a tribunal of enquiry and has no judicial power. Indeed it is not "judicial" at all, despite being described as such in the press. The enquirer merely happens to be a judge rather than a professor or a public servant, and his self-importance requires him to have an aide to help with cross-examination. Judges come one for the price of two. Hence the barrister, Miss Baxendale.

Miss Baxendale's cross-examination is not "cross" at all. Her line of questioning, as of Lady Thatcher this week, is wholly hostile. So-called "witnesses" have no lawyers on their side to challenge her, even if the outcome might incriminate them. The whole thing is irregular. The only defence a witness has is to tear up the enquiry's absurd 100-page questionnaire and refuse to appear. Surprisingly, none has done this, although at one point Alan Clark, next week's star witness, seemed minded to ignore the shenanigans.

The export guidelines affair is not a Watergate or even an Irangate. It ranks somewhere between salmonella-in-eggs and "talking to the IRA" in the canon of Whitehall foul-ups. The guidelines were not law and were understandably flexibly interpreted. They involved a small measure of public deception. They also involved espionage in the least savoury of businesses, the international arms trade. Hence the further confusion between MI6, Customs & Excise and the Attorney-General. By all means let Parliament refuse to have anything to do with this trade. But if it wishes to stay in the swamp, it must expect to get muddy at times.

Had the more restrictive guidelines been enforced, MPs would have been howling about Britain letting other Europeans win rich orders in Iraq. Nobody then knew that Iraq was soon to invade Kuwait — despite weasel words nowadays about "selling arms to be used against British soldiers". Nor did Britain export arms. The argument was in a grey area of dual-use exports and the extent to which Britain needed to change licence definitions to compete with continental suppliers. All this was revealed at Judge Smedley's Matrix Churchill trial. It needed no Scott enquiry. As for "failing to inform Parliament" — an accusation that always has MPs, journalists and now Miss Baxendale foaming at the mouth — we could soon have ten Scott enquiries like that every year, running concurrently.

Lady Thatcher may not evoke instant sympathy; we all like to see great ones humbled. But even she, queen of paperwork, was overwhelmed by the spectacle of Miss Baxendale's Matterhorn of bumf: "If I had read every minute in government, I would have been in a snowstorm," she said. (She read too many as it was.) Lawyers are the professional embodiment of hindsight. Hindsight is not just their bread and butter, in this case it is their champagne and caviare.

Simon Jenkins

Government is more immediate. Its successes and failures depend on a keen sense of priorities. "I didn't have hindsight at the time," Lady Thatcher reminded Miss Baxendale, who seemed to be auditioning for Jeremy Paxman's job. If she had known how interested Miss Baxendale was going to be in machine-tool policy five years on, she might have read the papers with more care. Other things were happening in the world. Had Miss Baxendale a mental record of her 1988 Sainsbury's bills, Lady Thatcher might have asked. Suppose her clerk had misfiled an invoice or overcharged a client, would she not tell the Bar Council tribunal that she left such things to her staff, her mind being on a loftier legal plane?

Before the Scott enquiry, I felt that judicial review had a rosy future. Grand tribunals, for instance into the Falklands invasion or the Channel tunnel link or the ERM débâcle, would keep Whitehall periodically on its toes. Parliament is useless at this, so bring on a new Inquisition. Open government is better than closed. I thought judges, even the press, more effective agents of day-to-day democracy than parliamentarians.

Whoever selected Lord Justice Scott dealt this thesis a severe blow. At one point, the judge told the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, that he personally would decide whether any official secrets disclosed in his report "would cause serious injury to the interests of the nation". Really? On whose advice? Miss Baxendale's? Lord Justice Scott clearly wishes to outdo Judge Smedley in the Matrix Churchill trial. That judge permitted 500 documents, many of them blowing open MI5 and MI6 operations, to be passed to Labour's Robin Cook and on to the press. This had open government groupies dancing down Fleet Street and lawyers salivating in anticipation.

I disagree. There is a case for some institution to oversee the security services, perhaps parliamentary, perhaps judicial. Some procedure is also needed to supplant the Attorney-General as government censor, as over the documents sent to the Matrix Churchill trial. Official secrecy has had so deplorable a history of late that some reaction is overdue. But the Prime Minister and Cabinet Secretary appear here to have hived off the nation's security to a non-judicial, *ad hoc* enquiry chairman. They have privatised it by accident.

The matter in hand is political, not criminal. If politicians wish to franchise to an outsider the job of calling ministers to account for policy mistakes, then politicians should be explicit. At present, confusion is being worse confounded. How we miss the great and good Lord Franks. He was no fee-hungry lawyer. He was a practical philosopher, a towering fusion of moral rectitude and political savvy. He would have mastered the machine-tools guidelines in a month. He would have examined ministers personally and delivered a brisk 20-page report as being "all the matter deserves". He would have despised the 130,000 documents, the prancing barristers and star witnesses of Scott.

If lawyers really are grooming themselves to usurp Parliament, they should at least study Franks. He knew how to tame Leviathan. His goad was common sense.

I'll come round soon



MATTHEW BOND DIARY

The man in the green pyjamas with what appeared to be a knotted J-cloth on his head smiled as he looked down: "So, young man, what do you normally do around Saturday lunchtime?"

Momentarily, I was stuck for a reply, his practised avuncular manner reducing me to the spellbound silence of a child meeting Santa. Pull yourself together I thought. You're not a child, and he's not Father Christmas. You're an adult diarist on the operating table and he's the anaesthetist on whom your life depends. Be *nice* to him.

Sophisticated badinage, however, does not come easy when you're lying prone, decked out in one of those fetching little backless and bottomless numbers. So somewhat feebly I muttered: "Oh probably having a pint somewhere, trying to decide whether to see Chelsea play at Stamford Bridge."

His smile froze. The heart monitor missed a couple of beats. "Nurse," he shouted. "This is more serious than I thought. Double the dose." As the needle pierced my skin he turned to me with what looked suspiciously like a sneer: "So when did Chelsea last win away from home?" He knew his stuff — I'd only got back as far as February when everything went black.

Yes, I am recovering well thank you. A nasty case of diarist's shoulder, that's all, an occupational hazard among those who spend their lives craning over the heads of others to see if someone more famous has come in.

As I say, the physical scars are healing, but the same cannot be said for the disorientating effects of the anaesthetic. I'm sure that before the lights went out I'd spent the morning chatting with nurses about how sad it was that we wouldn't be seeing the Princess of Wales any more. Yet when I came round and asked: "Mirror mirror on the hospital wall, who is the most high-profile princess of them all?", back came the reply: "Diana".

She was everywhere — dispensing champagne with the terminally familiar Richard Branson, dispensing sympathy to divided families in Ulster, and dispensing prizes on the stage of the Royal National Theatre. If this is retirement, lead me to my personal pension adviser. On second thoughts, maybe not.

But the royal short skirt was not alone in creeping back into fashion while I was under the knife. Vows and oaths now seem all the rage — or rather, breaking them does. If I follow it, George Austin the very arch deacon of York believes that the Prince of Wales, having allegedly broken his marriage vows, cannot be trusted to keep his future coronation vows. Which is all very well, but for the fact that in dishing the royal dirt, the Ven George seems to have broken his oath of allegiance to the monarchy. "Times change," said the archdeacon. "So do archdeacons." Charles may have thought.

Personally, I vow to take a veinful of the newfangled Detoxahol stuff — sharpish. For in government, changes in policy were being announced at a speed that my befuddled brain struggled to keep up with. But as far as I can gather, it is now possible to get divorced on a Sunday, once the problem of securing double pay for divorce lawyers is sorted out. Inevitably though, there are one or two provisos — small, dull divorces can be granted all day, while expensive, messy separations will be given only between 10am and 6pm.

Still more sensational news was to be seen on my hospital television in the shape of Baroness Thatcher's Shakespearean debut no less. She made it playing the part of Lady M in "the Scottish play". Critics are divided on her reinterpretation of the sleepwalking scene, in which she is haunted by past sins: arms to Iraq, personal pensions, student loans, that sort of thing. "So much paper, so much paper," Lady T moaned convincingly. Her snowstorm scene could become a classic.

The speed of my recovery is a tribute no doubt to the dexterity of my surgeon, which was topped only by that of the astronauts of the space-shuttle Endeavour. Still, I gather it may be a few days, possibly weeks, before we learn whether America has pulled off its mission impossible: curing the French government of its trade myopia. Until then, Gatt remains the final frontier.

Still the fuzzy headedness remains. I'm quite sure that when I entered hospital, government ministers had taken to blaming most policy blunders on secretaries who couldn't spell. Yet no sooner do I come out than Rover cars announce that secretaries may be transferred to the production line. Demand is soaring, says the man from Rover. "Our new model will be launched at the motor show — the Rovre 08£&," he says.

More gas please nurse.

minister who cries for the

هكذا من الأصل

SADDAM'S OTHER VICTIMS

Iraq is still a country in prison

Sir Edward Heath's readiness to pose for the cameras with President Saddam Hussein was controversial in 1990 because of his less-than-firm attitude to Iraqi aggression. His benign purpose this week was the apparently unconditional release from an Iraqi jail of three Britons. Their freedom is cause for rejoicing for their families and the public, but no cause for thanks to Saddam. His granting of Sir Edward's appeal for a "pardon" released from grotesque sentences civilians guilty of nothing more than losing their way.

This was no humanitarian gesture. Had Saddam thought these men had any remaining use as bargaining chips to obtain the unfreezing of Iraqi assets in British banks — the price he unsuccessfully tried to exact — they would still be in prison. His calculation was that their release could assist the lifting of sanctions against Iraq. There has been no such "clemency" for prisoners of 30 other nations, including hundreds of Kuwaitis taken hostage during the Gulf War. Iraq has offered neither remorse nor compensation to the families of thousands of Egyptian workers in Iraq, whose mutilated bodies were returned in bodybags to Cairo during the Gulf War in retaliation for Egypt's condemnation of the invasion of Kuwait.

As for Iraq's own people, Sir Edward stressed the need for the international community to attend to their "humanitarian needs". The condition of all but Saddam's clique, and the military and security services that protect his dictatorship, is now wretched. But the proof of Saddam's indifference to their suffering is his refusal to sell oil worth £1.07 billion under United Nations controls: Iraq could then purchase food and medicines. In addition to this cynical neglect of the needs of ordinary Iraqis, Saddam continues viciously to persecute large segments of the population in violation of UN resolution 688 and of international law.

Last month, the UN's special rapporteur on Iraq described in bleak detail the systematic bombardment and burning of villages in southern Iraq, where Iraqi troops are attempting to starve out those they have not arrested, detained or killed. British Tornados have produced video proof of Saddam's destruction of the marsh Arabs' livelihoods and habitat. The Amara marshes have already been drained in a policy now being extended to the Hammar and Moshara marshes. More circumspectly, his troops harass the Kurds in the north, constantly testing the UN's will to protect them. And evidence mounts that Saddam has again used against his people the chemical weapons that UN inspectors should by now have completely destroyed.

Where the UN has been resolute, it is beginning to get results. After 32 months of obstruction and procrastination, Saddam is gradually giving ground on some key UN demands. Last month, Iraq agreed to comply with resolution 715 which requires it to accept both long-term monitoring and snap inspections of facilities capable of producing weapons of mass destruction.

Equal firmness is now required in respect of resolution 688: the UN Security Council should put Iraq under notice to stop draining and polluting the marshes, and announce that offensive military concentrations there or within the "safe haven" in northern Iraq will be liable to aerial attack. The only case for relaxing any sanctions meanwhile is to mitigate, under strict UN control, the effects of the internal blockade Baghdad has imposed against Kurds in the north and Shias in the south.

Saddam is still far from complying with UN ceasefire resolution 687. He has even had the gall to renew his claim to "Iraq's 19th province", Kuwait — proof that Iraq will remain a threat to peace so long as he is in power. Saddam basked in this week's publicity, but it should remind the world of his criminal responsibility for Iraq's plight.

WE SPY WRECKERS

Parliamentary disruption may seem silly but it works

Politicians will be thin on the ground at this year's Christmas parties. Their festive season has been savagely curtailed by Labour's decision to suspend the usual backstairs co-operation with the other side. Every piece of legislation, however uncontentious, will from now on be opposed, and the Tories will have to ensure that there are always at least 100 MPs within voting distance to avoid losing closure motions. No longer will members be able to pair with another from the opposing party so that they can both have fun in the evening.

It was a row over pairing that led to the last campaign of disruption in the Commons. In 1976, the Labour government won a division on the Bill to nationalise the aircraft and shipbuilding industries by just one vote. A rumour swept the Conservative benches that the Labour chief whip had persuaded one of his MPs to break his pairing arrangement; without this act of dishonour, the Government would have lost the Bill. The Tories yelled "Cheat!". Labour MPs started singing "The Red Flag", and Michael Heseltine seized the mace in fury. Though the breaking of the pair was never established, the Conservatives decided to make life as difficult for the Government as they could. They were following in the footsteps of the harrying campaign instigated in 1951 by Robert Boothby. He and a group of other backbenchers, infuriated by the continuance of a weak Labour Government, decided to vote against every order laid before the House. The result was serious disruption.

So like all parliamentary traditions, calculated obstruction has its precedents. Although devices such as the "I spy strangers" tactic used by Dennis Skinner yesterday may seem ridiculously archaic, they are the only tools an Opposition has against a Government with a majority. When the usual co-operation between the two sides is denied, an Opposition can make life extremely inconvenient for government Whips.

Labour's main complaint is that the Government has allowed only one day each for the Bills on sick pay and national insurance contributions. To impose a guillotine this early in the parliamentary session is unusual, and the argument that employers need the Bills to be passed quickly in order to update their payment systems is spurious. Parliament has sat for less time than usual this year, and the Government could easily have shortened the Christmas recess to allow time for proper debate of what are contentious measures.

But discontent has been simmering for rather longer. Labour claims that the Tory Whips' office has been unco-operative over the scheduling of three-line whip debates on a Thursday night, when many Labour MPs, whose constituencies are far from London, have to leave the capital. There is a real clash of cultures between the two parties' Whips, the tough NCOs of Labour and the haughty Tory officers.

The examination of Bills is central to Parliament's operation, and the guillotine should be used as sparingly as possible. There may be some truth in the Labour charge that, because both the Prime Minister and his Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, have never known opposition, they are a little cavalier about parliamentary procedure. It is said that they wanted these Bills passed before Christmas in the still warm glow of the Budget; they feared that if MPs were given time to think, the Government's own small majority might make their passage more precarious. If that was the tactic it deserved to fail. Frayed tempers will now be more in evidence in the Commons than Christmas cheer.

BOWLERS' HATS

Sports officials should keep their hair not their hats on

The mosaic of Englishness is again under threat: there is the possibility that women bowlers may be allowed to bowl hatless. Women clamping their pudding-basin hats on with one hand while decanting their bowls with the other are as much a constituent of the time-warp of England as party political broadcasts and warm beer.

For next summer's home internationals there is a proposal to dress the women bowlers in coloured shirts, in order to distinguish between the teams and make their sport prettier to watch. Libertarians are taking this opportunity to campaign against the rule that English women bowlers must keep their heads covered at all times: not just when bowling, but when travelling to the club or at lunch before the match.

Bowls is a very old sport, built into English folklore by Sir Francis Drake. The legend that he carried on bowling on Plymouth Hoe when news was brought that the Spanish Armada had been sighted is one of the stories that every schoolchild may still know, just. It could even be true.

England did not invent every sport. Flinders Petrie discovered bowling equipment in an Egyptian grave from a period when Stonehenge was only a chip in the mind's eye. But, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Britain codified many sports, and laid down strict dress regulations.

Bowling rules are justly meticulous about the size and shape and weight and bias of the bowl, to give all players an equal rub of the green. They are just as meticulous about women's dress, still enforcing hats, gloves and brown shoes. The secretary of the English Women's Bowling Association, when challenged on the inevitability of hats, replied: "All the young ladies at the church I attend wear hats and gloves. People are always telling us how smart we bowlers look."

Every other old English sport has relaxed its dress regulations. Suzanne Lenglen threw away her corsets and showed her ankles, even, when leaping, her knees. Cricketers have given up their white flannels for clashing colours. Footballers change their strips twice a year, to increase income from the sale of their gear in the club shop.

Bowls is a graceful game. But, like croquet, it is now played seriously by athletes as well as amateurs. Hats are no longer the sole badge of respectability. Manicured turf on the green and spick-and-span bowlers wheeling away will still be part of the English scene. Nobody is suggesting that the bowlers should perform in shell suits and trainers. But the compulsion to wear hats, fossilising St Paul's horror of female hair and Victorian bias towards hats for decent women, can be lost without entirely destroying the Francis Drake tradition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Morality touching the monarchy and role of the Church

From Mr Paul Rippon

Sir, Like every politician, Mr Nicholas Soames confronts Archdeacon Austin's perfectly reasonable point with a tirade directed against views which he did not express and, I believe, does not hold (report, December 8).

As the interview with him which you publish today makes clear ("It shouldn't be me — the bishops should say these things"), George Austin did not intend to speak either "for the Church of England" (as Mr Soames implies that he claimed) or on behalf of the British people. He merely gave his own views — although I believe that he also articulated those of many individuals within the Church of England. Nor was he making any constitutional point, as his article in your paper of December 8 made plain.

It would be a hard thing indeed (if Mr Austin's case were to prevail) for a church which largely resists the ordination of divorcees, and still by canon law does not marry the divorced, to have foisted upon it as defender of the faith a monarch who is himself divorced or even estranged from a wife to whom he has publicly and in a religious ceremony made solemn vows of faithfulness and vows of comfort, honour and protection.

I cannot speak for the British people, but I do speak from over 20 years of work with the divorced and divorcing when I say that a dismissive view of marriage vows is not universally held by them, nor, may I say, by the General Synod of which I have been an elected member for 15 years. It gives me little pleasure to say so, but I believe there will be great resistance to the descent of the crown to Prince Charles in the present circumstances.

Whilst the heir apparent is but a heartbeat from the crown, let us hope that that other heart beats for many a long year yet and that the present unhappy circumstances do not continue.

Yours etc,
PAUL RIPPON,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
December 10.

From the Reverend Tony Higton

Sir, The New Testament teaches (Romans xiii, 1-3) that we should honour secular leaders who uphold what is good in society as established by God. In the historical context St Paul was referring to pagan Roman authorities. So, whatever his failings, were Prince Charles to become king and uphold what is good, Christians should honour him.

However, under present law he would also be the supreme governor of the Church of England, with authority over the Church's legislation and appointments.

But the New Testament also teaches that anyone in authority in the Church must live an exemplary life. Those failing to do so should be removed from office. The argument that historical acquiescence by the Church in royal immorality justifies acceptance of the current situation is itself immoral. It contrasts with the biblical view that not to discipline serious error is to share in that error.

Consequently, the failure of Prince Charles either to deny or publicly to repent of adultery, thereby contributing to the serious national moral malaise, is intolerable to many Christians.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HIGTON,
The Rectory, Hawkwell,
Hockley, Essex.
December 8.

From the Conduct of Eton College

Sir, George Austin's latest bid to promote himself as the guardian of the Church of England's traditional faith and morality is especially reprehensible. Your leader (December 8) admirably exposed the intellectual and ethical flaws in his argument.

But even if there were proper concerns here it is for the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Dean of Windsor to express them privately and graciously. Through the proper channels the Church of England still has some authority to do so. Archdeacons do not need to behave like important and frustrated lobbyists.

If there is a question here it is not whether Prince Charles is fit to be king but whether George Austin is fit to be Archdeacon of York.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WITHERIDGE
(Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1984-87),
Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire.
December 8.

From Mr Simon Sweeney

Sir, The Archdeacon of York shows how unreasonable is his questioning of the Prince of Wales's suitability to become king by citing an absurd tenet of Christianity, that no sin is beyond redemption. The concepts of sin and redemption are indicative of the utter illogicality, arrogance and cant that one expects from Christian moralisers.

Would that the present crisis might finally precipitate the disestablishment of the Church of England, an important step in the overdue modernisation of our anachronistic and anti-democratic constitution.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON SWEENEY,
3 Glebe Cottages,
Sheriff Hutton,
North Yorkshire.
December 9.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto

Sir, I was very saddened that the Archdeacon of York should have used Radio 4 and *The Times* to question the suitability of Prince Charles to ascend the throne.

If the authorities of the Church of England were ever to feel that any individual for any reason should not become the head of the Church, the proper course would be to have discussions with him.

My understanding of the teachings of Jesus makes me feel that the method of the archdeacon's attack may well have been un-Christian.

Faithfully,
SIDNEY BRICHTO,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
December 8.

From Mr Tilak E. Gooneratne

Sir, May I congratulate you on your leader of today. It would be a tragedy if the Commonwealth should be deprived of having Charles as its head, for he would be as acceptable to the Commonwealth as the Queen has always been.

I first had the privilege of seeing Prince Charles in 1970 as a young man representing the Queen at the celebration of the independence of Fiji, and was most impressed at the way he conducted himself. What I saw of him then and since has confirmed my belief that he should prove an ideal head of the Commonwealth.

Yours faithfully,
TILAK E. GOONERATNE
(Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General, 1965-70),
17b Warwick Avenue,
Little Venice, W9.
December 8.

From Mr Rodney E. B. Atkinson

Sir, Two of your correspondents (December 9) compare Archdeacon Austin's criticism of the Prince of Wales with Jesus's defence of the adulterer before those who would have stoned her.

There is no comparison. The archdeacon is not proposing even punishment for the Prince, never mind physical attack. The adulterer was certainly not excused for her behaviour, nor was she recommended by Jesus for public office.

"Judge not that ye be not judged" is hardly a maxim which the King of the Jews applied to himself or his Father. The evil of adultery is in its deceit of a family and its social hypocrisy.

We should thank God for his judgments and for his son, who, unlike those who would hold public office today, drew his own moral authority from his impeccable example to those he led — and whom he did not hesitate to judge.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,
Alderley, Meadowfield Road,
Stocksfield, Northumberland.
December 10.

What future for the Arts Council?

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, The farcical and insensitive treatment of the London orchestras (report, December 6; letters and leading article, December 7) in the past six months marks the lowest point in the Arts Council's history.

Three of our great orchestras have been pilloried internationally while their personnel and managements have had six months of needless stress and uncertainty. Our European partners, meanwhile, look on amazed as we parade ourselves as a nation of philistines.

Keynes's Arts Council was once a glorious invention. The arm's-length principle kept interfering politicians away, and policy was designed by a council of major artists committed to encouraging creativity wherever it occurred, giving us a postwar renaissance in the arts international in its impact.

The Arts Council no longer has the confidence of the arts community; many members of its advisory panels have resigned rather than be made into convenient rubber stamps. It also demonstrably carries no weight with a Government that has just carried out a series of niggardly and damaging cuts to arts funding.

Since the 1980s the Arts Council has become more and more a tool of government, its job being no longer about art but about how to cut subsidy. Frightened bureaucrats hide this poverty behind grand theoretical plans that take little note of creativity or tradition. The major artists have long since departed the council in despair.

The present Arts Council should be disbanded and efforts made to return to first principles. Subsidy should be used once more to keep seat prices low so that the arts can become accessible to the greatest number.

Where there is healthy creative endeavour, subsidy should encourage the enterprise. Art cannot be planned into existence. We need an entirely new initiative from the Government both to preserve and to develop our arts — but will it accept such a challenge?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HALL,
The Peter Hall Company,
Albery Theatre,
St Martin's Lane, WC2.
December 7.

From Mr Christopher Gordon

Sir, The ten regional arts boards, set up in 1991 when Sir Richard Luce was arts minister, replaced 12 regional arts associations and can therefore hardly be described as an "extra layer of bureaucracy" (leading article, December 7).

The long drawn-out "reforms" of the arts support system (five years old this week) were originally designed to produce a coherent system, with improved value for money and accountability for use of taxpayers' contributions, and better democratic accountability, with decision-making conforming to the principles of subsidiarity.

The most severe damage to the arts next year is likely to occur as a consequence of the continued squeeze on local authorities. The regional arts boards working with their local authority partners are crucially positioned to limit this damage to both artists and audiences.

Just how does *The Times* imagine that public money can be distributed fairly around the country without an accountable structure to handle the task?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GORDON
(Chief Executive),
English Regional Arts Boards,
5 City Road, Winchester, Hampshire.
December 7.

Macedonia recognised

From the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Dr Martin Holmes (letter, December 6) says it is now time for the British Government to recognise Macedonia. The British Government, in fact, did so on April 8 by voting in favour of the United Nations Security Council resolution proposing that Macedonia should be admitted to the United Nations under the provisional name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Yours,
DOUGLAS HOGG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, SW1.
December 8.

Heart treatment

From Dr W. J. Penny

Sir, I wish to correct some misleading impressions created by your report (December 2) on the treatment of heart attack patients.

Early thrombolytic (clot-busting) treatment in appropriate patients has saved many lives in the UK but the potential number suggested by your report, "10,000 to 25,000 a year", is hugely optimistic. Two sad but fundamental facts are that approximately half die suddenly, before they can alert the medical services; and of those who receive medical attention, thrombolytic treatment will be indicated in only about half of cases (*Lancet* 1993; 342, 1366).

Yours sincerely,
W. J. PENNY,
(Consultant Cardiologist),
University Hospital of Wales,
Department of Cardiology,
Heath Park, Cardiff.

To show our films

From Mr J. D. Smithard

Sir, It is rather unfair of Sir Anthony Meyer (letter, December 9) to put all the blame on the distributors for the dearth of continental films.

My local multiplex cinema has an excellent record of showing foreign films, but at the Italian *Stolen Children* I was one of five in the audience, and at the French *L'Accompagnatrice* I was one of three. The problem is surely that of getting people to go to see these worthwhile films.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. SMITHARD,
23a Buckland Crescent, NW3.
December 9.

Birds at risk

From Mr John Crookshank

Sir, Your leader about the increase in crime against wild birds ("Blithe spirits", December 3) also held out encouragement for birdwatchers in Britain. However, it was somewhat unfair to include Spain in your list of "baddie" countries.

In fact, Spaniards in general are proud of their richly diverse bird populations and their "green" interest is strong. Spain is the most important crossroads for the spring and autumn bird migrations from and to Africa and the indigenous populations are one of the most varied in Europe.

Despite the draining of marshlands and the encroachment of industry and tourism, you will see little or none of the senseless slaughter of birds in Spain that occurs in Malta or Sardinia, for instance. In many of the small bars in remote Andalucian villages there are excellent bird-identification charts and a spontaneous local interest in wildlife.

Key places such as the Coto Doñana are zealously — perhaps over-zealously — guarded but the Spaniards have never been a race to do things by halves. Twenty-five years ago you needed an individual pass to get into the Coto Doñana and were allowed a limited stay. Now you are taken around the very margins of the main reserve in an eight-wheel-drive Pegaso vehicle.

This may be frustrating for the real aficionado, but it means that the sensitive breeding areas are safe.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CROOKSHANK,
Ivy House, North Street,
Westbourne,
Nr Emsworth, Hampshire.

Pensions safeguards

From Mr David Green

Sir, I have much sympathy with many of the public who have been advised to transfer into a private pension scheme from an occupational one ("Is my pension going to be worthless?" Peter Riddell, December 9).

As the administrator of a company scheme in which pensions are based on employees' final salaries, I see all too often members losing benefits and indirectly paying commissions upon a transfer.

But alas, since in my role I am not a "qualified financial adviser" registered with either Fimbra (Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association) or Lautro (Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation), I am not able to express my opinions and misgivings to them.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
9 Turner Close, NW11.
December 4.

From Mr A. Thompson

Sir, Is it not time that pensions were separated from social security, in the way that health matters were some time ago?

Social security is an insurance against misfortunes which most people hope will never happen to them. Pensions are a build-up of assets to provide an income in old age, which everybody hopes will happen to them.

The two functions could not be more different: all they have in common is the collection of contributions. Lumping them together means that an accusation of scrounging on the one rubs off against the other, and people in receipt of retirement pensions rightly resent this.

Yours faithfully,
A. THOMPSON,
32 Landseer Avenue, Tingley,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
December 3.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

Out of Antarctica

From Dr M. P. Ruglys

Sir, The decision (report, December 9) that the last huskies are to be removed from Antarctica is a simplistic gesture to the environmental lobby. If the latest Antarctic treaty protocol requires all alien species out of the white continent then *Homo sapiens* should leave as well.

Yours faithfully,
MATT RUGLYS,
68 Honeywell Road, SW11.

But is it art?

From Professor H. C. Higgins

Sir, To support his criticism of Rachel Whiteread's *House*, Alan Brewer (letter, December 7) suggests it is "the work of an architect, not an artist". When did a practitioner in the mother of the arts cease to be an artist?

Yours faithfully,
HAL HIGGINS,
Higgins Gardner & Partners
(Architects),
15 Bury Walk, SW3.

Sickening, isn't it?

From Dr Colin Howson

Sir, The news that irregularities in the motion of the new Chunnel trains can render their drivers nauseous (leading article, "Still the swiftness", December 6) is sad, and one hopes that those with whom they come into contact will make due allowance.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HOWSON,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Department of Philosophy,
Logic and Scientific Method,
Houghton Street, WC2.

On the wrong track

From Mr Nigel Cole

Sir, Dr Jules Alterman (letter, December 2) expresses concern lest the Central line usurps the Northern for the position of the Tube's misery line. Might I suggest that, in view of the amount of water pumped daily from its eastern section, the Central should be entitled to the sobriquet of the Drain. Dr Alterman would then be able to rest easy.

Of course, users of the Waterloo to Bank shuttle may object.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NIGEL COLE,
115 Mount Grace Road,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.
December 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 10: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited HM Young Offenders Institution Polmont, Brightons, Falkirk, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk (Lieutenant Colonel James Stirling of Garden).

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this evening attended Pringle of Scotland's Gala Dinner and Fashion Show at the National Gallery of Scotland, the Mound, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mr. Norman Irons, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Provost).

Mrs. David Bowes-Lyon was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 10: The Prince of Wales today delivered the annual lecture of the Countryside Council for Wales at the Orangery, Margam Park, Swansea, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Glamorgan (Lieutenant Colonel Sir Michael Llewellyn, Bt.).

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 10: The Princess of Wales this morning opened St. Matthew's Community Centre, Meadow Row, London SE1.

Captain Edward Musto RM was in attendance.

Luncheon

Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce

Mr Frank Barlow was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr David Birch, president, was in the chair. The Deputy High Commissioner for Canada and the Agents General for Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec were among the guests.

Service dinner

The London Regiment

The Master of the Cordwainers Company was the guest of honour at the Christmas dinner of officers of C (City of London Fusiliers) Company of The London Regiment at HM Tower of London last night. The guests, who were welcomed by Major A. Ferguson, included the Right Reverend R.D. Say, the clerk of the Cordwainers, the chairman of the Royal London Society for the Blind, and Mr P. Mainzer.

Royal engagement

Tomorrow

Princess Margaret, as President of the Scottish Children's League, will attend a ball at the Tramway Centre, Glasgow, at 7.45 to mark the end of the league's centenary year.

The Sovereign's Parade

THE Grand Duke of Luxembourg represented Her Majesty the Queen at The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December 10.

The following have been granted commissions in the Regiments and Corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course no 931. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer JG Baxter, and The Queen's Medal was won by Officer Cadet LPB Cradden.

IJ Aberdeen, RE; JP Addis, RE; JP Allen, RA; CEO Allerton, LG; WIE Anderson, KRH; J Appleby, R Signals; JW Atkins, RLC; MJ Atkinson, AGC (ETS); RCG Ayers, R Signals; AM Bather QRH; GJ Baxter, RHF; SA Bell, Staffords; EJ Bengtsson, RA; JR Biggs, DERR; JNE Birch, 10 GR; PC Blake, R Signals; ET Boanas, IG; JL Bowit, RLC; CJM Brown, BW; DA Brown, R Signals; TRJG Brown, Scots DG; RAJ Bryant, RA; MS Burnand, AAC; KV Burnett, RLC; TL Burton, RA; DJ Carroll, Green Howards; JP Carter, RA; K Cartwright, RLC; JPAIG Charvat, AGC (RMP); MC Chick, RE; JJC Cohu, RA; JP Coleman, R Signals, KR Copland, R Anglian; JPC Corbett, AAC, TJR Courtauld, RDG, LPB Cradden, Para; M Crofts, RE, DN Crowson, RE, CJW Daniels, Para; AJ Dobson, Staffords; JM Doherty, 9/12 L; RJ Donnellan, Para; RA Douglas, RE; AJ Doust, RE; CK Dunphie, RGJ; E Enraght-Moony, RLC; SF Everatt, RRF; LD Farnon, QLR; LE Fowkes, 7 GR; DK Francis, RA; JHJ Fraser, KOSB; JE Fulford, R S, MA Galan-Diaz, RLC; WR Garrard, RA; JR Gasson-Hargreaves, 9/12 L; PJ Gill, REME.

GH Gray-Cheape, BW; PR Griffiths, R Signals; KA Grist, RLC; CA Hall, AGC (SPS); DP Hall, RE; PJ Hallett, REME; GPR Harris, RLC; MJC Harrop, R Signals; I Heath, R Signals; ARA Higgs, RRF; RDJ Hood-Cree, Kings; JP Hopkinson, RA; RJA Hungerford, KOSB; AC Jackson, RLC; K Jackson, RE; PJL Jenkins, Int Corps; BS Kara, RLC; MR Keating, AAC; CJ Kell, R Signals; R Kolczak, REME; EC Lock, RLC; A Long, R Signals; EN MacDonald-Williams, RE; KM MacDougall, RLC; KN Mace, RRF; J MacPhee, AGC (SPS); WS Mann, LD; HPB Martin, Scots DG; TB Martin, 2GR; CY Mavin, AGC (SPS); FAO Mayne, WFR; PR McClellan, RLC; GA McDade, Glosters; DM McNamara, Gordons; RJ McNeil, RLC; ER Merer, RE; FS Milburn, Int Corps; PIA Monro, QO Hldrs; EJ Moore, RLC; PD Morgan-Davies, WG; LM Mulholland, PWO; SH Murray, RE; SG Murray-Twinn, AAC; RF Nataralan, D and D; GP Newell, R Signals; DM Nicholls, Scots DG; D Nightingale, RE; HNC Nightingale, RWF; DJ Noble, R Signals; MD Nunnerley, AGC (SPS); VFH Orrell-Jones, RE; JDM Owens, RWF; N Owsnett, REME.

C Palmer, RA; RIB Parkinson, RE; AFW Parks, RA; DC Parsons, LI; AE Percival, R Signals; AP Pickett, RA; OD Pritchard, RA; MP Purves, R Signals; MJ Rayner, R Signals; TK Rayner, RA; DM Rex, 10 GR; AJ Rhodes, RLC; CA Roberts, RLC; MJ Roberts, REME; PWF Roberts, R Irish; MF Rowe, RE; RJ Sellwood, R Signals; RA Semple, RE; CL Simpson, RA; MC Small, REME; DJ Smalley, Kings Own Border; RP Smith, Kings Own Border; MS Smyth, REME; AR Stanley, AGC (ETS); MD Stocks, RLC; LJ Strong, Cheshire; CV Swain, RLC; ML Sweet, RA; MW Sykes, AGC (SPS); RC Taylor, RLC; MJA Thomas, Glosters; IJ Thompson, AGC (RMP); NC Thompson, WFR; PM Thompson, R Irish; GM Timms, Para; PR Tomes, RLC; WJR Tonkins, Cheshire; JE Townhill, DWR; SL Turner, AGC (RMP); JF Webb, IG; RJ Webb, R Signals; WB Webber, Cheshire; ML Welham, RRW; PMR West, QO Hldrs; HF Whitbread, RHG/D; PDW Wickham, QDG; HA Wilkie, AGC (ETS); DGL Wilkinson, IG; LA Wood, RA; NAP Wright, A and SH; TJ Young, AGC (RMP), PIR Zvegintzov, Coldm Gds.

The following overseas cadets passed out with a view to being commissioned in the armed forces of their countries. Winner of the Overseas Cane was Officer Cadet AP Kwotuah.

Oscar Roberto Mira, Belize; Roger Anthony Montero, Belize; Monuko Morent Mogosi, Botswana; Alexis Pegawolie Kwotuah, Ghana; Judith Ann Blackwood, Jamaica; Zaid Mohammed Al Dwaikat, Jordan; Mohammed Edafi Bin Duad, Malaysia; Mahesh Sjb Rana, Nepal; Manoj Thapa, Nepal; Irfan Khan, Pakistan; Hammam Bin Mohammed Al Abdullah, Qatar; Ramadhan Athuman Dogoli, Tanzania, Apichit Pinyocheep, Thailand.

NICHOLAS READ/REX FEATURES



The Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence RN, who celebrate their first wedding anniversary today, at Gatcombe Park with her English bull terrier

Legal news

Appointment: Judge Jack, QC, is to be the first Circuit Mercantile Judge in Bristol under a new system of civil trial for commercial and business matters which will operate there, and following the establishment of a Mercantile List in the Bristol District Registry (Queen's Bench Division) from January 10 1994.

Retirement: Mr Justice Leonard has retired as a Judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) on medical grounds.

Memorial service

Mr S. James Saunders

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of S. James (Beaker) Saunders, TD, FCA, FRAM, will be held on Tuesday, December 14, at noon at Saint George's, Hanover Square, London, W1.

Birthdays today and tomorrow are on the facing page

Latest wills

Mrs Frances Mary Barton, of Sheffield £525,459.

Eileen Jennie Ealand, of Bath, Avon £627,751.

Mr Arthur Glencross, of Groombridge, East Sussex £1,009,126.

Mrs Joyce Eileen Hellin, of Rhos on Sea, Clwyd £1,040,141.

Mr David William Morgan-Kirby, of Sheldwich, Kent £527,028.

Gladys Emily Larman, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire £671,171

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.A.V. Pedlar and Miss P.R. Goodson

The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of the late Mr Anthony Pedlar and Mrs Mary Pedlar, of Southport, Merseyside, and Tricia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Goodson, of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Mr J.M. Bradshaw and Mlle S.M.V. de Milleville

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, second son of Mr and Mrs Keith Bradshaw, of Epsom, Surrey, and Sophie, daughter of le Baron and la Baronne Claude de Milleville, of Paris.

Mr J.G.M. Eastaugh and Miss P.J. Skeates

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of the late Bishop of Hereford and of Mrs John Eastaugh, of Kingsland, Herefordshire, and Phillipa, younger daughter of Mr Nicholas Skeates, of Gloucestershire, and of Mrs Gillian Skeates, of Storrington, Sussex.

Captain T.S. Flaxman and Miss A.S. Eddie

The engagement is announced between Captain Thomas Sebastian Flaxman, Royal Engineers, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Flaxman, of Old Basing, Hampshire, and Anna Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E.F. Eddie, of Walderslade, Kent.

Mr G. Grant and Miss E.J. Thomas

The engagement is announced between Gregor, son of Mr and Mrs Gregor Grant, of Dringhouses, York, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Thomas, of Nitter Hill, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.T.St A. Harney and Miss M.H. Tremaine

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Harney, of Broadwater, Sherborne, Gloucestershire, and Moira, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Tremaine, of Sandyhill Farm, Sherborne, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.B. Macdonald and Miss L.J. Plaskett

The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr J.R. Macdonald, QC, and Mrs Macdonald, of Egerton, Kent, and Lucy, daughter of Major General F.J. Plaskett, retd, and the late Heather Plaskett.

Dr W.J. McKay and Miss S.L. Bass

The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.R. McKay, of Dubbo, NSW, Australia, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr Paul Bass, of Conington, Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Carol Bass, of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr R.J.V. Bisset and Miss J.M. Parker

The engagement is announced between Roderick, only son of Mr and Mrs J.G.V Bisset, of Cowes, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.W. Parker, also of Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Mr J.E. Prideaux and Miss F.A.K. Kiely

The engagement is announced between Jonathan Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Jim Prideaux, of Wimbledon, and Fiona Ann Kilpatrick, daughter of Dr and Mrs D.G. Kiely, of Emsworth, Hants.

Mr D.M. Smith and Miss A.F. Pugh

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Smith, of Witney, Oxfordshire, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Pugh, of Kelsall, Cheshire.

Mr R.J.M. Steel and Miss H. Smal

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Captain and Mrs J.D. Steel, of Kemington, London, and Hannah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Smal, of Châtel-St-Denis, Switzerland.

Mr D.M. Williams and Miss C.A. Hefferen

The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs Stanley Williams, of Hove, Sussex, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hefferen, of Seaford, New York.

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday in Advent

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Dyson in D, Rejoice in the Lord (anon), Rev Canon Alan Luff; 4 Choral E, Sumsion in A, Prepare ye the way (Wise), Rev Canon John Waterstreet.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev R Christian; 11 S Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Durufle), Prope est Dominus (Regnart), Rev Dr C A Lewis; 3.15 E, Ashfield in G minor, Oculi omnium (Byrd); 4.30 Kings School Community Carol Service; 6.30 Sermon & Compline, Rev P G C Brear.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Wadely in F minor, Jesus Christ, the apple tree (Poston), Postlude in G (Widely), Canon Jim Chapman; 3.30 Popular Carol Service.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, The Vice Provost; 11.15 M, Sumsion in B flat, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Canon Paul Brett; 3 Malcolm Sargent Celebration of Christmas; 6 Choral E, Short Service (Gibbons), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon David Knight.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Jackson in G, Benedictus (Chard), Come, my way (Cooper), Rev John Gilling; 11 S Euch, Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), The Benedictus (Gradual), Lasciatemi cuell (Byrd), The Archdeacon; 2 Seaford College Carol Service; 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor, The Wilderness (Wesley).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Philinsong, Tone 8, C5 Lang in B flat, Canon Michael Rees; 11.30 Choral E, Christopher Steel in E minor, Thou judge of quick and dead (Wesley); 3.30 Choral E, O thou, the central orb (Wood), Prelude and Fugue in C minor (Mendelssohn); 6.30 Christingle Service, Cathedral Voluntary Choir.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Adam lay y bounden (Orr), Rev Nigel Guthrie; 3 Anglo-German Carol Service; 5.30 He Came the way (Rildout), Leighton in G, Jubilate Deo (Walton).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in A (Harris), Benedictus in A (Stanford), And the glory of the Lord (Handel), Canon Brown; 11.15 HC, Missa super O quam gloriosum est regnum (Victoria), Canon Perry; 3.30 E, The Second Service (Gibbons), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Vesszaghha in C minor (Bach).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), O thou that tellest (Handel), The Lamb (Tavener), Final (from Symphony No. 3) (Vierne), The Precentor; 3.45 E, Preses (Tregee), Wesley in A, Ave discretis (Naylor), Organ: Introduction & Passacaglia (Reger).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, (Hutchings), Holy is the true light (Harris), The Chancellor; 2.45 Bach Choir Christmas Concert.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Lit; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum (Mozart), The Dean; 11.15 M, Benedicite in B flat (Lloyd), Come thou redeemer of the earth (Praetorius); 2.00 Rotary Club Carol Service; 3.45 E, Stanford in C, Evening Hymn (Gardiner), The Chancellor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in B flat (Stanford), Jubilate in C (Stanford), Advent Prose (Plainsong), Rt Rev K Oram; 3.30 E, Gray in F minor, Vox dicentis (Naylor).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8 Lit; 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion); 10.30 Euch Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Rev T M Hastie-Smith; 3.30 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Five part mass (Byrd), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Remember, O thou man (Ravenscroft), Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron; 3 E, Stanford in G, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise), Canon Gordon Jeal.

ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL: 10.30 SM, Missa Rorate coeli desuper (Haydn), Rejoice in the Lord (anon), Very Rev Mgr Kelran Corry; 12, 5 M.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ave verum (Byrd), Rev C M Bonnywell; 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat, Stanford in B flat, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell); 3 E, Moeran in D, Remember O thou man (Ravenscroft), Rev P de N Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Gibbons/Barnard), Benedicite (Purcell), Prepare ye the way (Wise), Canon Anthony Harvey; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Darke in F, Rejoice in the Lord (anon), Confitebor tibi (Wood), Rev Jonathan Goodall; 3 E, Grieg in E minor, Vox dicentis (Naylor), Rev Ian Forster; 5.45 Organ Recital, Irish Schoolboy; 6.30 BS, Canon Paul Bates.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.00 MP; 10.30 Solemn Mass, Mass in G (Schubert), Gaudete omnes (Praetorius), Concerto in D minor (Bach); 2.30 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn Vesp, Magnificat octavi toni (Lassus), Ecce Dominus veniet (Victoria) Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ (Bach).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Benedictus in C (Stanford), I know a flower (Jackson), Les enfants de Dieu (Messiaen), The Dean; 11.30 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Prelude and Fugue in A minor (Bohm); 3.30 E, Collegium regale (Tavener), Annunciation (Tavener), Introduction and Passacaglia (Reger), Graham Phillips.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd; 11 Choral M, Dyson in D, There shall be signs in the sun (Wadely), The Dean.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark; 8, 6 LM; 10 Family M; 11.30 Solemn M, Mass in G (Vladanai), Sleepers Awake (Bach), Fr Anthony Barrett.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London; 8 HC; 10 M, Jackson in G, Benedictus (Adcock), Rev Michael Seward; 11.30 HC, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon); 3.15 E, Collegium Magdalenae Cognienae (Leighton), Vox dicentis (Naylor), Priere (Franck), Ven John Barton.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee; 8 HC; 9.40 SC; 11 Choral Euch, Spatzen Mass (Mozart), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev Marion Paton; 6 University Carol Service.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1; 8, 5.15 EM; 10.20 MP, 11 HM, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Vigilate (Byrd), Nancy Wansbrough; 4.30 EP; 6 Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1; 9, 11 C Service, Rev John Cook; 6.30 Canon John Chapman.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1; 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev James Schmidz.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1; 11 MS, Missa ave maris stella (Vittoria), The Lord hear thee (Blow), Rorate coeli desuper (Guerrero).

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2; 11.15, 6.30 Rev Stanley Hood.

FARM STREET, W1; 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2; 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Paul Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1; 11 MS; 6.30 Service of 9 Lessons & Carols, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2; 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr Jose Pudge; 7 Lutheran Choral V, Chorale Preludes for Advent from the "Orgelbuchlein" (Bach), Rev Ronald T Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1; 9 HC; 11 M, Short Service (Gibbons), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev Anthony Winter; 6.30 E, Short Service (Gibbons), Ecce Quomodo (Handl), Preb Michael Shrewsbury.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4; 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicite (Ashfield), Sumsion in F, Communion Carol (Rouse), Canon John Gates; 6.30 Choral E, Philinsong, A Ceremony of Carols (Britten).

ST CLEMENT DANES; 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Sumsion in G, Stanford in B flat, O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion (Handel), Ven BR Lucas; 3 Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1; 11 Rev W Alexander Cairns; 6.30 Rev John H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place; 11 SM, Missa brevis (Britten), Tota pulchra es Maria (Poulenc), Allegro risoluto (Whitlock).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1; 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, Ave Maria (Bruckner), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), This is the Record of John (Gibbons), Rev Bill Wilson; 6 Choral E, Dorian Mode (Tallis), Vox clamantis (Esquivel), Rev Graham Buckle.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford Broadway, E15; 11 Family C, D Minor Toccata & Fugue (Bach), Rev Jane Rawling; 6.30 Students' Carol Service, Prelude, Fugue & Chaconne (Buxtehude), Rev John Richardson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1; 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 S Euch, Gibbons in F, Lord, we beseech thee (Batten), Rev Tom Devonshire Jones.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2; 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev John Pudmore; 11.30 Address to London Service Wives; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lee; 6.30 BS, Rev Bernhard Schunemann.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1; 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Rorate coeli desuper (Haydn), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Dr Brian Horne; 6 Advent Carols, Messiah & SB.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3; 11 Choral M, O Emmanuel (Davies), Boyce in C, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev Neil Dawson.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7; 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Brevis (Seiber), Salve Regina (Eben), Veni Emmanuel (Kodaly), Bishop Paul Richardson; 6 EP & B.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London; 9.15 HC; 11 M, Benedicite (Ashfield), Benedictus (Chant), Behold, the hour (Tomkins), Canon JGMW Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace; 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Prepare Ye The Way (Wise), Ven P Ashford.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace; 8.30 HC; 11 M, Sumsion in B flat, Stanford in B flat, Let us sing with gladness (Mendelssohn); 3.30 E, Rejoice in the Lord alway (anon), Brewer in D, Like as the hart (Howells); 6 Carol Service.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Thou art my King, O God (Tomkins), Dialogue sur les Grand Jeux (Couperin), Canon JR Porter.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2; 11 M, Vaughan Williams in G, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street; 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Dyson in F, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise), Wachet auf (Karg-Elert), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1; 11 M, Conditor alme siderum (Plainsong), A spotless rose (Howells), March Le Prophete (Meyerbeer), Band of the Life Guards, Rev Bob Gilbert; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10; 11 S Euch, Cantate Domino (Prioul), Advent Responsory (Palestrina), The Chaplain.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Observe the kindness and severity of God - severity to those who fell away, divine kindness to you provided that you remain within its scope.
Romans 22:22 (REB)

BIRTHS

BLAIR KRISTIN - On December 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Bessie and Stephen Seller, a beautiful daughter and a little sister for Morgan.

COLLIN - On November 5th at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Lorraine and Nigel, a son, Thomas, a brother for Sophie and Miles.

ELLIOTT - On 9th November 1993, in Cambridge, to Penelope (née Johnson) and Stephen, a daughter, Hester Inunogen Hero, a sister for Isaac.

HALL - On December 2nd, to Ann and Philip, a beautiful daughter, Daisy Helen, a sister for Jamie.

STONE - On 16th October 1993 to Susan and Howard, a daughter, Lily Rose Agnes.

MARRIAGES

FULTON:FIELD - Mr Michael Charles Noel Fulton, youngest son of Michael and Lelia Fulton, to Miss Alison Jane Field, youngest daughter of Reginald and Pamela Field, on Saturday 4th December 1993 at St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt, Hampshire, followed by a reception at Lainston House, Sparsholt.

DEATHS

BENNETT - Tom passed away peacefully at home on December 8th. Much loved husband of Jassy, father of Perpetua and Richard and grandfather of 7 grandchildren. Service at The United Reformed Church at Henleaze Bristol at 2.00pm on Friday December 17th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired may be sent to Alzheimers Disease Society, Gordon House 10 Greencoat Place, Victoria London SW1 1PH.

BRAZIER - On December 9th 1993 peacefully at home, Anthony David Percy (John) dear husband of Valerie, father of Wendy, David, Diana and the late Peter and 7 grandchildren. Funeral Service at Worthing Crematorium Findon on Thursday December 16th at 2.40pm. No flowers please. Donations to Cancer Research c/o H D Tribe Ltd, 63 Sea Lane, Rustington West Sussex BN16 2RQ.

DEATHS

BROWN - Nicholas Ernest. On December 8th in hospital, beloved husband of Joan and dearly loved father of Penny and Susan and son-in-law Christopher; grandfather of Emily, Oliver, Edmund and Eleanor. Funeral on Thursday 16th December, 10.15 am at St Mary's, Holly Place, Hampstead. Flowers to A. Franco and Son, 45 Lambs Conduit Street, WC1.

EISNER - On December 10th, peacefully after a long illness, at the Princess Grace Hospital, London. Margaret, widow of the late Peter J.S. Eisner, beloved mother of Peter and Terence. Never sloped living life to the full, never gave up. Private Cremation at the Chiltern Crematorium, Amersham Friday 17th December 2.30pm. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

HILL - On Wednesday 8th December, William Stephen, peacefully after a long illness, husband of Jean and father of Tracy. Will be greatly missed. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium Amersham, on Friday December 17th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired payable to Headway c/o James Peddle Ltd, 65 High St, Rickmansworth, Herts.

HORNE - Roger Hurry, suddenly in India on 15th November, 1993 while on holiday. The funeral was held in the Isle of Man on 1st December. All enquiries to A.J. Horne, 1 Eastgate, Louth, Lincolnshire.

MARSHALL - On December 8th 1993, after a courageous fight against cancer, Elizabeth, D.Phil., aged 66 years. Beloved wife of Frank, loving mother of Stuart and Za, fond grandmother of Edward, Michael, James and Anthony. Private cremation, no flowers by request.

MOIRA - Frances Anne beloved wife of Alex, mother of Gill, Alice and Janet, grandmother of Elizabeth, Anne and Alex. Died at home December 9th 1993. Cremation on December 17th, 12 noon at Yeovil Crematorium. No flowers please, donations if desired to Landivery Trust. Churchtown Farm, Landivery, Bodmin PL30 5BT.

MORDAUNT-HARE - On 9th December suddenly Gillian beloved wife of Bunny and much loved by her daughter Carolyn (Catty) and grandson Will and Leaf. Private cremation, followed by Service at St Edward's Church, Taffort Magna at 2 pm on Friday 17th December. No flowers but donations if desired for the National Gardens Scheme c/o Will Case and Partners, 22 Churchfields Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7NH

DEATHS

MOSSMAN - On 7th December, suddenly, Brigadier Trevor Mossman, late of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, much loved husband of Cynthia. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Steple Ashton on Friday 17th December at 2.30 followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The Royal Warwickshire Regimental Association, St. John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF.

PELLY - On Thursday the 9th of December peacefully at home Desmond Aubrey Stanley most dearly beloved and loving husband of Patricia and adored father of Carolyn, Richard, John and Michael. Funeral on Friday the 17th of December at 2 o'clock at St Margaret's Church, Harpeden near Hepley-on-Thames.

PENN - On December 6th 1993 aged 61. After a long battle for life, died peacefully at Addenbrookes Hospital Camb, Michael Rodney Penn formerly of London. Co. Director/Advertising & Governor, Woolverstone Hall School 1972-80 Vice-President of the Nomads C.C. Much loved father of Charles, Andrew, Elizabeth, William, grandfather of Maisie, dearly loved brother of Ann and Romola. His unique style, charm, kindness and wit will be greatly missed, by all those who's lives he touched. Funeral Service, Friday December 17th at 12 noon at the West London Crematorium, Kensal Green. Flowers and all enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove London W2. Tel: 071 229 3810

SISSMEY - On December 8th peacefully Lt. Col. Oliver Nevill Denne Sissmey, D.L. (Charles), late 60th Rifles, aged 93, father of Isisy. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Otford Cluny, on Wednesday 15th December at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

STANTON - Hannah Margaret died on 9th December at Princess Alice Hospice, Esher. Much loved sister of Tom. Funeral at 9.50 am Tuesday 14th December, at St James' Church, Hampton Hill. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Oxfam.

STEPHEN - Peacefully at home on Deeside, on Thursday December 9th 1993. Maida Tennant Sloan (aged 90) wife of the late John G. Stephen (Shipbuilder, Glasgow) and mother of Minna and David. Funeral Service in Kincardine O'Neil Parish Church at 2.00 p.m. on Monday December 13th. Thereafter to Hazelhead Crematorium Aberdeen.

DEATHS

VEREKER - On 9th December Yvonne Frances (née Barnett) at Tenterden House Nursing Home, late of Serge Hill, peacefully after short illness.

WOOD - On December 9th 1993, suddenly at home, John Herbert, aged 80 years, much loved husband of Ellen, dearly loved father of Penny and Peter, grandpa of Sophie, James, Mark, William and Alex. Funeral Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, West Sussex, on Thursday December 16th at 1 pm. Family flowers only but donations to British Heart Foundation, c/o C & T Radnall Funeral Services, 225 London Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9QU. Tel: 0444 871212.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ARNOLD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Edward, will be held at St Michaels Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4 at 12 noon on Friday 7th January 1994.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

42 CDO RML - In grateful memory of those who fell at Limbang on 12th December 1962 - Dick and Dorothy Morris.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BUSK - In loving memory of Sir Douglas Laird Busk K.C.M.G., 1906-1990.

GOULDING - Angela. Remembered today and every day with love and gratitude. Ossian.

WALLACE - Ingeborg Elizabeth - 12 December 1992. Darling wife of Alan, mother of Jennifer and Sarah. Missed more than ever and remembered every day.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

TRUSTEE ACTS

ALLAN GARDINER, DECEASED. In connection with the estate of the late Mr. Gardiner the executors wish to trace any surviving children of the late John Gardiner and Mary Bannatyne (who were married at 1 Cornwall Street, Govan, Glasgow 18th August 1888) or the descendants of such children. Paterson, Holmes & Co., Solicitors, 126 Dryburgh Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.

FAZLOLLAH MOHARRER, 11 Alban House, Sumpter Close, Hampstead NW3. Retired Farmer. Died: 29th March 1993. Executors to: Stock, Gray & Co, 14/15 College Crescent, London, NW3 5LL. Name of Administrator: FRAN DOMOTT.

GHANBARZADEH, 11 Alban House, Sumpter Close, London NW3. MEHRDAD MOHARRER, Apartment 1601, 2177 Harbarthorne Road, West Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

FLORENCE MARY ROLINSON deceased late of 122 Friern Park, London N12 Died 17th May 1993. Particulars to SAMUELS MARKS MEIFELD Solicitors of 37 Circus Place, London W1R 3AR not late than 11th February 1994.

HOLDSWORTH, Annie Victoria, 10 Windermere Hall, Shenstone, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7SZ 16th July 1993: Particulars to Hyde & Hyde of 128/129 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7AJ before 10th February 1994.

In the estate of Margarete Glattkoper deceased. NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act, 1925, that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the estate of Margarete Glattkoper late of 7659 Northchurch Road, Chiltern Hills, Kent who died on the 24th day of July, is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, the Solicitors for the Administrators before the 21st day of February 1994 after which date the Administrators will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice and will not be responsible for any persons of whose claim or interest they shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 6th day of December 1993

Nabarro Nathanson
Messrs Nabarro Nathanson
50 Stratton Street
LONDON W1X

OBITUARIES

PAUL-LOUIS WEILLER

Paul-Louis Weiller, flying ace, industrialist, patron of the arts and benefactor, died in Paris on December 6 aged 100. He was born in Paris on September 29, 1893.

PAUL-LOUIS WEILLER, one of the richest men in France, pursued several highly successful careers during his long, remarkable life. He served gallantly as a flier in the First World War, built an aero-engine empire, founded a prewar airline that later became Air France, developed oil fields in Mexico and Venezuela and then devoted the last 40 years of his life to aiding the arts via the Institut de France and his own foundation. In addition, he was a noted benefactor providing food and shelter for the poor and elderly. At the same time, he managed to lead an extremely active social life not only in Paris, where he befriended the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, but also in Geneva and on the Côte d'Azur. His house parties were legendary.

Weiller was born into wealth. His father, Lazare Weiller, was a senator and deputy, owned a steel works in Le Havre and was a pioneer of underwater telephone cables, notably between France and the United States. His family on his mother's side were industrialists in textiles, railways, electricity and tyres.

After studies in several countries, including Britain, Weiller graduated from the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris and became an engineer. His early passion for flying, stemming from his father's support for the Wright brothers and their flights in France, led to service at the age of 21 in the French Air Force during the First World War.

He spent four years almost entirely at the front as a daring, low-level reconnaissance pilot over German lines and on one occasion evaded the attentions of the German ace, Baron von Richthofen. He pioneered new forms of aerial photography, was wounded five times and ended the war as a captain reporting directly to Marshal Foch and commanding four squadrons, known as the Groupement Weiller. His exploits earned him the French Médaille Militaire, the British Military Cross and the Légion d'Honneur in 1918 at the age of 25, one of the two youngest men to receive this distinction.

In 1922 he became director of the nearly bankrupt aero-engine company, Gnôme-Rhône. He turned it round and by the mid-1930s the company, whose workforce had risen from 850 to 18,000, was among the leading engine makers in the world. Outside France, Gnôme-Rhône engines were made under licence in Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania and the Soviet Union.

At the age of 31, he was running an international airline, Flèche d'Orient, opening routes to the Middle East, Asia and Africa, before founding Air Afrique. When the principal French airlines were merged into Air France in 1933, Weiller was named director.

As France collapsed in June 1940 Weiller was able to dismantle the Gnôme-Rhône factory, outside Paris, in a matter of days thus preventing valuable production facilities falling into German hands. He was arrested in October 1940 while on a mission for the Free French, and held in several prisons where fellow inmates included Paul Reynaud, the last Prime Minister before France's capitulation, and Vincent Auriol, postwar President of the Republic.

The Vichy authorities stripped Weiller of his French nationality but he managed to escape in 1942, making his way to Cuba. He acted as an emissary for General de Gaulle in Cuba, Mexico and Canada where he became an assistant of General La Flèche, the minister for war, and



assisted in the training of pilots.

Gnôme-Rhône was nationalised in 1945 at the instigation of Communist ministers serving in the Gaullist government and became the state company, Snecma. The Communists, particularly the party leader Maurice Thorez, summoned Weiller to return to France. He declined and turned to oil prospecting in Venezuela and Mexico where he discovered new fields that made him a millionaire again. He extended his interests to banking, but when he did return to France in 1947, he ceased being an active industrialist, devoting his time to the arts, *la vie mondaine* and to charity.

Weiller was ahead of André Malraux in the restoration of historic town houses in the Marais quarter of Paris, near the Bastille, which today is one of the most chic residential areas of the French capital. He transformed, notably, the Hôtel des Ambassadeurs de Hollande into both a centre for artists and a restaurant for the needy. Well before the establishment of the current *restaurants du coeur*, he organised the serving of hundreds of thousands of free meals in the 1955-68 period. Other charity work included the opening of a hospital for the elderly in the Gironde department, a retirement home and a flying club for the physically handicapped.

Weiller himself never retired. From the 1960s he became increasingly active in supporting the arts. As a member of the Académie des Beaux Arts and one-time president of the Institut de France, he launched four prizes for painters, including one for portraiture, was honorary president of the Salon d'Automne and made donations to several museums, notably the Palais de Versailles and the Musée Carnavalet, the impressive museum of the history of Paris in the Marais.

Generosity of a different kind marked his life in the world of high society. His Paris home served as a residence at one period for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, while he entertained royalty and film stars, such as Chaplin and Garbo, at his magnificent villa, La Reine Jeanne, with its extensive park and private beaches at Bormes-les-Mimosas, near St Tropez. He was still waterskiing in his nineties and continued to make annual winter ski trips to the Alps until shortly before his death.

His extraordinary life and career were crowned in 1989 when President Mitterrand awarded him the Grand Cross of the Légion d'Honneur, the nation's highest honour. Weiller, known throughout his life as "Le Commandant", married twice. His first marriage, in 1922, to Princess Alexandra Ghika of Romanian descent, was dissolved. His second, ten years later, to Aliki Diplarakos, of Greece, also ended in divorce. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

JAMES ROGERS

James Keith Rogers, wine consultant, died of disseminated cancer on December 1 aged 46. He was born in Surrey on September 8, 1947.

JAMES ROGERS was a rare talent in the British wine trade, a wine merchant whose discerning tasting skills gave him an uncanny ability to pinpoint which wines British consumers would want to drink, and how much they would be willing to pay for them. He influenced high street wine purchases radically over the past two decades.

The younger son of a director and future chairman of Cullens, then a family concern with licensed grocery shops in and around London, Rogers was best known at his school, Radley, for his fine singing and a vigorous sporting career. He was the school's tennis captain, and was runner-up in the public schools rackets competition. He won the Manchester Open rackets doubles.

After a formative year teaching at Cord Walles, a boys' prep school in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, Rogers studied accountancy before abandoning numbers for grapes.

His wine career started in the family company alongside his father whose own keen palate and more traditional wine trading style obviously taught him much. But James Rogers avoided the conventional approach of the traditional pin-striped suit and old school tie style of wine merchant. He developed his own method, which involved tasting every bottle blind and putting a hypothetical shelf price on it. Tastings were conducted in a Dickensian office in a Battersea Park Road warehouse.

A "road to Damascus experience" with La Rioja Alta's Vina Ardanza 1964 confirmed his passion for wine, convinced him that high-class wine did not have to come from Bordeaux or Burgundy, and sparked British wine drinkers' enthusiasm for Riojas in the mid-1970s.

Rogers set about unearthing good, often great, wines with open-minded enthusiasm. From a visit to California he brought back wines of Robert Mondavi. He was the first major stockist of cheap Argentine wine. He pioneered Chilean cabernet sauvignon, and discovered Bulgaria as a source of cheap, clean, fruity wines.

He also made Cullens one of the first high street chains to stock bottled table water. He started the Cullens Wine Club as a means to encourage customers to share his enthusiasms. He developed staff training schemes, and he devised Cullens' own system of codifying the sweetness of white wines and the fullness of reds, introducing numbered shelf indicators. Just how skilful and pre-emptive Rogers's wine-buying abilities were can be seen from the fact that by 1985 he was listing 20 Australian wines, a full year before Oddbins started with just four.

Sadly, though, in that year, too, the family was bought out and the Cullens shops were turned into upmarket convenience stores. James Rogers remained briefly on the board of the new company but decided later that year that the minutiae of corporate life were not for him.

He decided to go it alone as a wine consultant. He was much sought after to take part in blind tastings organised by newspapers (including *The Times*) and wine magazines, because his work-rate at tastings was prodigious yet his judgments and marks exceptionally dependable. His technique was to circle the table twice, testing everything on the nose first, and then making a second note on the palate. He could taste hundreds of wines with speed and accuracy in a day, and still be as sharp at the end as at the beginning.



Thoughout his career Rogers devoted time and energy to wine education, starting with Cullens' managers and following right through to regular "What's my Wine?" courses for the public at the Fulham Road Wine Centre. As a trustee of the Wine Development Board, he conceived the introduction of National Wine Week with its promotional tastings.

After his father suffered from cancer of the vocal chords, Rogers set up the Bob Champion Aldaniti Cancer Fund. He was himself a keen racetrack visitor, and took a part share in several horses, but he was nowhere near as good a judge of horseflesh as he was of wine. He was, however, an astute judge of character who summed up people quickly and made a good and caring friend.

He faced a long illness with courage and indefatigable determination. Even in his last days he was eager to taste *The Times*'s winning 1993 Beaujolais Nouveau, and approved it.

James Rogers leaves his parents and an elder brother and sister.

MARGARET BOYD

Margaret Boyd, OBE, founder of the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations, died on November 21 aged 80. She was born on January 17, 1913.

QUEEN Victoria was said to have liked the game of lacrosse because it enabled girls to keep a good stiff back, rather than stoop to chase a hockey ball. With royal approval, England's schoolgirls were soon beating every country unwise enough to enter the arena and, in the process, countries such as America, Canada and Australia really learnt how to play.

As the founder of the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA), Magaret Boyd did as much as anyone to improve the sport's international standing, while working, like most of the game's organisers, as a sports mistress at a traditional girls public school, Wycombe Abbey in Buckinghamshire.

Margaret Boyd was the fourth of five children born to a northern businessman, but lived in Strasbourg with her mother and was educated in England at Berkhamsted and Wycombe Abbey. Afterwards she trained at Bedford PE College and taught PE at Roedean and Berkhamsted until the outbreak of war.



The 1936 England lacrosse team with Margaret Boyd, front row right

Her lacrosse playing, at which she had shone at school as a defence wing, continued at a high standard. She was selected in 1934, fresh out of college, for the East Ladies Lacrosse Association (in territorial lacrosse) and the England women's team. She went on to be England's captain, 1938-1951, vice-president, 1955-66, and president, 1967-72.

During the war Margaret Boyd made the daily trip by motorbike to Ashridge House near Berkhamsted where she worked as a qualified physiotherapist. But her thoughts never left the game. Seeing that the survival of lacrosse teaching in schools was imperilled by war shortages, she had the foresight to place an advertisement in *The Times* which duly produced large quantities of equipment. She formed a team called "The Occasionals" for local women and coached women's service teams in the area.

Returning to Wycombe Abbey as a teacher after the war, Margaret Boyd founded the All England Schools Championship in 1946. She visited America for the first time that year on a fund-raising tour and, in 1952, joined the staff of Winsor school in Boston for three years. She also began to coach lacrosse in Maine and returned there annually for more than twenty years.

Since 1934 the American and England women's lacrosse teams had established a regular tour schedule, but Australia, where the women played a brutal game more akin to men's lacrosse, was uncharted territory. Now back at Wycombe Abbey, Margaret Boyd took the first group of British players and coaches, "The Pioneers", to Australia on a coaching tour in 1969, and the Australians returned the visit on their first British tour in 1972. That year the IFWLA was born, and Boyd was made its founder president.

In Edinburgh last August, the fourth IFWLA World Cup was held on the association's 21st anniversary. Margaret Boyd was delighted at the strong turn-out, as England, Scotland, Wales, America, Australia, Canada and for the first-time, the Czech Republic and Japan thrashed it out on the pitch.

Margaret Boyd retired as teacher and housemistress of Wycombe Abbey in 1975. In addition to lacrosse, she was a good golfer and bridge player.

She never married.

PETER STUBBS

Peter Stubbs, science writer, died on December 4 aged 65. He was born on March 13, 1928.

A WRITER of unusual clarity and elegance, and a geophysicist who made a major contribution to our knowledge of continental drift, Peter Stubbs will be best remembered for his influence on the character and development of *New Scientist* during its formative period. He joined the magazine in 1960, four years after it was launched, and served as deputy editor for nine years before leaving in 1978, when he and his wife Heather moved to Cumbria, where they took over Salkeld Hall, a medieval manor house near Penrith.

Stubbs was a past master of the challenging art of writing engagingly for a general readership, particularly on physical sciences. He was also a dedicated editor who taught the skills of popular authorship to countless contributors — often research workers who initially had neither the aptitude nor the enthusiasm for addressing a wider audience.

Peter Stubbs was born at Stoke Poges and educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, where he was a contemporary of Bernard Levin. He studied geology and physics at Nottingham University, and in 1952 joined a new research group formed at Manchester University by Professor (later Lord) Blackett to study the natural remanent of magnetism of rocks and its relevance to theories of continental drift and polar wandering — then highly controversial topics. In the following year he moved to Imperial College, London, where he took his PhD under Professor J. A. Clegg in 1958. Their names appear together on the very first paper which established that the Earth's land mass had moved relative to the poles.

New Scientist's initial editor, Percy Cudlipp, was still at the helm when Peter Stubbs joined the magazine in 1960. Soon, Stubbs's byline was appearing almost weekly, and the consistently enticing articles he produced at that time, embracing not only the physical sciences but occa-



sionally also chemistry, biology and other disciplines, must have helped to attract many young people into science and indeed science writing, too. There was less time for writing following his appointment as deputy editor in 1969, though his influence on the policy of the magazine became correspondingly stronger. For example — and, paradoxically, despite his profound commitment to science and its methods — he did much to ventilate the arguments against the "race to the Moon".

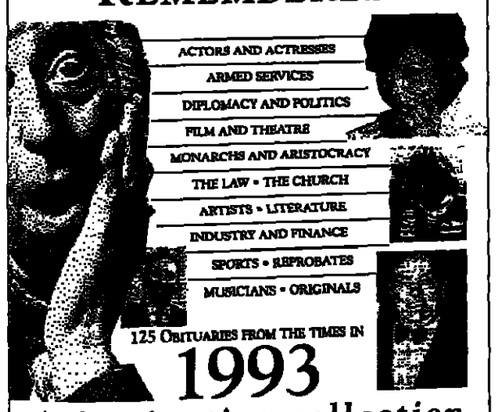
Stubbs strongly disapproved of manned space exploration. He believed that as much or more could be achieved by using robotic space probes, and ensured that this case was vigorously argued in the pages of *New Scientist* and elsewhere. (A feisty television dust-up with Patrick Moore is one quirky memory from that era.)

Even here, though, Stubbs's abiding fascination with geophysics still held sway. Writing last year in the *Journal of British Interplanetary Society*, Bernard Dixon, editor of *New Scientist* at the time when Apollo astronauts brought the first Moon rocks back to Earth, recalled asking Stubbs whether he would like to have some to study in the lab. "Oh yes," was the immediate answer. "That would be fun."

There was much in Stubbs's life other than science. As he himself recorded in a biographical note which he penned for *Penguin Science Survey* in 1967, his hobbies included "rock climbing, for which he has far too little opportunity, classical music, old-fashioned novels, an old motor car and other things bearing the patina of age and lacking the gloss of modernity". But it was science — particularly the practical and intellectually liberating fruits of science — to which he repeatedly returned in conversation. He became a science writer not because he wished to hit any headlines but quite simply because he wanted to share these passions with others. One measure of his success in his chosen craft is that he helped, through *New Scientist*, to make science writing the respectable career which it is today.

He leaves his widow Heather, together with a son, and two children from his first marriage.

THE TIMES
LIVES
~ REMEMBERED ~



125 OBITUARIES FROM THE TIMES IN
1993
A fascinating collection of mini biographies
– FOREWORD BY ROY HATTERSLEY –
EDITED BY ANTHONY HOWARD AND DAVID HEATON

ORDER FORM
~The Times LIVES REMEMBERED~
Please send me... ___ copy(ies) in hardback @ £14.99
___ copy(ies) in paperback @ £7.99
(Post free in UK, overseas orders add £6)
I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to:
'The Blewbury Press'
Alternatively please debit my Access/Visa card number
EXPIRY DATE SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE
Post coupon to:
The Blewbury Press Pound House Church Road
Blewbury Oxon OX11 9PY
Telephone orders: 0235 850110 Fax: 0420 478664
Also available from booksellers

Birthdays

The Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence celebrate the first anniversary of their marriage tomorrow.

Today

Brigadier R.W. Acworth, registrar, St Paul's Cathedral, 55; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, 74; Miss Anna Carteret, actress, 51; Lord Elliott of Morpeth, 73; Sir Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary to The Queen, 52; Professor Sir Robert Grieve, town and regional planner, 83; Mr Andrew Lansley, director, Conservative Research Department, 37; Mr Cliff Michelmore, broadcaster and television producer, 74; Sir Wilfrid Newton, chairman, London Regional Transport, 65; Mr D.E. Plowright, deputy chairman, Channel Four Television, 63; Mr Carlo Ponti, film producer, 80; Mr Patrick Reyntiens, glass painter, 68; Sir Francis Sandilands, former chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 80; Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, author, 75; Mrs Sheila Walker, former chief commissioner, Girl Guides Association, 76; Mr C.F.J. Younger, brewer, 85.

Tomorrow

Miss Tracy Austin, tennis player, 33; Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and broadcaster, 62; Lord Borwick, 76; Major-General Sir Rupert Brazier-Creagh, 84; Mr Will Carling, rugby player, 28; Miss Denise Coffey, actress, director and writer, 57; Mr Jasper Conran, fashion designer, 34; Mr Kenneth Cranham, actor, 49; the Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, 63; Mr William Ebbert, former chairman and managing director, Vauxhall Motors, 51; Mr David Elsworth, racehorse trainer, 54; Mr Emerson Fittipaldi, racing driver, 47; Miss Connie Francis, singer, 55; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, former director, WRAF, 78; Dr Philip Ledger, principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 56; Mr John Osborne, dramatist and actor, 64; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer, 78; Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 52.

ENTERTAINMENTS

"JOURNEY'S END"

By R.C. Sherriff

This is not story-telling, for there is neither beginning nor middle nor end, nor any formal progress of narrative, nor convergence of selected incident.

It is not story-telling, and if, 50 years hence, an audience, watching it unmoved, says: "This is a historical document, but not a work of art," there is no doubt that they will be able to discover in it good reasons for their opinion. We, who have not their detachment from St. Quentin and the month of March, 1918, cannot afford their aesthetic didacticism.

If we must risk an opinion, it is that Mr Sherriff's study of the front line in 1918, though it comes as near as the stage may ever come to precise representation of life in a dug-out, is not a work of art with any prospect of endurance.

It has the poignancy, the accuracy, the revealing brilliance of many letters that were sent home in those days, but like them it needs a naturally responsive audience which the passing of a few years will take away. Within its own boundaries, which seem to have been drawn by wasteful and haphazard chance rather than by an artist's deliberate selectiveness, it is true and deep, but it has little power to expand beyond these boundaries.

You experience, while watching the play, a hot, cloudy, unstable emotion, but await in vain that poetic leap from things observed to universal truth apprehended which yields tragedy's own exaltation, not hot though flaming, not cloudy but serene.

What Mr Sherriff has done is to take away one earthen wall of a dug-out and exhibit for a few days the life within. There is a raid, led by the second-in-command of the company, who does not return; there is an opening of the enemy's offensive and the death of a young officer fresh from England. The play's substance is in an aggregate of portraits — first of Captain Hardy, whose casual slackness in turning over to his reliefs is very cleverly shown by Mr David Horne to be but his way of breathing again now that his spell of duty is ended; then of his successors.

Stanhope, the company commander, is drinking steadily, that fear may not break the spirit in him; Osborne, an older man, a schoolmaster, is a beautifully familiar example of unspectacular loyalty. Mr Zucco gives a beautiful impression of character and of the background of character; his Lieutenant Osborne towers above the others. Mr Laurence Olivier gives an extremely able performance, vital, eager, rich in understanding, and Mr Speaight and Mr Maurice Evans control admirably very difficult and subtle emotions. All these men are alive; they draw their audience into communion with their suffering and their concealments of it: the patch of life which we see is justly and poignantly remembered.

That it is a patch and not a core of life matters not very much now, but it will matter more and more as the play and the observation to which it is keyed sink into the past.

ON THIS DAY

December 11 1928

The Times drama critic underrated the impact of this Stage Society first performance. The young Laurence Olivier similarly misjudged its impact, switching before the West End transfer to the lead in Beau Geste

Christmas peace hope for Ulster

■ John Major and Albert Reynolds were on course to sign a Northern Ireland peace agreement before Christmas. The pact could be sealed as early as next week.

Hopes of a breakthrough rose after Mr Major and Mr Reynolds, who met for an hour at the European Council summit in Brussels, announced that they were aiming to meet again before Christmas Pages 1, 2

Freed Britons greet loved ones

■ The three Britons released from an Iraqi prison after a personal appeal by Sir Edward Heath were reunited with their families in Jordan before two of them began a flight back to Britain Pages 1, 2, 17

Linked to Europe

Britain finally ended Europe's isolation from the UK when the first trainload of passengers passed through the Channel Tunnel Page 1

Delors thwarted

Jacques Delors' ambitious plans to borrow £30 billion to finance European transport projects were shelved in the face of united opposition from John Major and Helmut Kohl Pages 1, 14

Change demanded

After 90 years which has seen little change in women's bowls, the younger ones, are demanding a new look to get away from the frumpy image Pages 1, 17, 40

Costly 'aye'

A Scotsman was put in the cells for repeatedly replying "aye" instead of "yes" Page 1

Bombing tax

The IRA's mainland bombing campaign is to blame for the £750 million a year tax on insurance premiums, insurance industry sources believe Page 2

Church uproar

The congregation of the picturesque Parish Church of Auchtermuchty, in Fife, is attempting to have its minister sacked after she banned the nativity play from the church Page 5

Sunday shopping ban

Less than 48 hours after Parliament approved a relaxation in the Sunday trading laws, a High Court judge banned Currys from opening on Sundays Page 6

Vigilante violence

Jewish vigilantes claimed responsibility for killing three Palestinian workers Page 12

Africa's grief

Hopes for progress toward democracy in much of Africa lie shattered in the dust of the Burundian capital Page 13

Welfare reforms

A White House task force has drawn up a plan to force welfare recipients into work schemes, in what would amount to a radical overhaul of welfare policy this century Page 15

Car number costs a king's ransom

■ A record price for a car number plate was set by a mystery buyer who paid £203,500 for K1 NGS at Christie's. Jack King, owner of a string of night clubs, persevered up to £180,000 before retiring in defeat. The tantalising thought occurs that the mystery buyer is our own king-in-waiting Page 8

JOHN MANNING



Six years after tunnelling began, builders TML yesterday handed over the Channel link to Eurotunnel at a ceremony in Folkestone attended by, left to right, Peter Costain, Tony Palmer, Neville Simms, Sir Alastair Morton, Joe Dwyer and Sir Robert Davidson. Report, page 1

Lloyd's: Beleaguered names at the insurance market could face demands for billions of new funds to fill a £8.6 billion hole in reserves, according to Chatset, the independent analyst, an increase from the £5 billion estimate Page 21

Manchester United: The publicly-quoted football club, revealed that an independent valuation has increased the value of its Old Trafford stadium by a huge 43 per cent to £46 million Page 21

Economy: Britain posted a trade deficit of £1 billion in September, dramatically reversing what was obviously a rogue improvement in August's performance Page 21

Electricity: Norweb, the Manchester electricity distributor, said it will not be forced into making higher dividend payments than its rivals. It raised dividends by 13.6 per cent, one of the lowest increases so far this year Page 22

Cricket: England A enjoyed an excellent first day of their match against Transvaal at the Wanderers ground in Johannesburg. They dismissed Transvaal for 161 and, with Mark Lathwell, of Somerset, 77 not out, were 145 for three at the close Page 34

Yachting: Brad Butterworth and the crew on board his yacht, Winston, are claiming that they lost 24 hours in going to the aid of Brooksfield, the Italian yacht, last week during the Whitbread Round the World Race Page 37

Football: Bobby Robson, the former England manager, was dismissed as coach of Sporting Lisbon, the Portuguese club, who were eliminated from the Uefa Cup on Wednesday. He had five months of a two-year contract to run. Everton, whose manager, Howard Kendall, resigned last Saturday, look favourites to sign him Page 40

Christmas jeer: Brian MacArthur pleads for less moralising in the season of cheer as he confesses his drink-driving sins Page 1

Hostel spirits: Guy Walters meets the people from all walks of life who help out in the drop-in centres for the homeless Page 3

Cool yule: From a frozen corner of Europe, a Christmas tradition is bringing winter warmth to a north London restaurant Page 4

Cheeses to please us: Drew Smith goes in search of true Cheddar, a far cry from the spread so beloved of sandwich makers Page 4

Pet friends: Britain's best-known charity is the RSPCA, dedicated to the welfare of animals. What does it do with its annual income of £27 million? Page 6

Real carols: A preview of London Concert Choir's attempt to rescue Christmas music from shopping centre Tannoys Page 8

Come to the Cabaret: Just a fortnight after playing Hamlet in the same theatre, actor Alan Cumming slips on black knickers and garters to play the transvestite Master of Ceremonies in the new Sam Mendes production of *Cabaret* at the Donmar Warehouse. Even the orchestra wears black lingerie Weekend, page 16

Cracking stuff: "An ingenious cocktail of cruelty and comedy," says Nadine Meisner, reviewing a radical interpretation of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* by the modern dance group, Adventures in Motion Pictures Weekend, page 16

Poppea's crowning glory: A superb cast of singers gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to give a concert performance of Monteverdi's opera *The Coronation of Poppea* under John Eliot Gardiner's direction. The same team is recording the work for Deutsche Grammophon Weekend, page 16

VISION

Velvet overview: The 1960s group, the Velvet Underground, is so seminal it is being given an eight-hour tribute on Channel 4 Page 3

Capital moves: During the attempted coup in Moscow this year, UK businessmen pressed on with selling to the Russians; a television crew was watching Page 5

OPINION

Saddam's victims

Saddam basked in this week's publicity, but it should remind the world of his criminal responsibility for Iraq's plight Page 17

We spy wreckers

There is a clash of cultures between the two parties' Whips' offices, the tough NCOs of Labour and the haughty Tory officers Page 17

COMMENT

SIMON JENKINS

The Scott enquiry is not investigating a crime. It is not a tribunal of enquiry and has no judicial power. Indeed it is not "judicial" at all, despite being described as such in the press Page 16

PETER MILLAR

Who dares decide when a city such as London is finished? A city is a living thing with moods of exuberance and depression, but also prone to arteriosclerosis and even death Page 16

LETTERS

Sir Peter Hall criticises the Arts Council Page 17

QUOTE

The message of the mass murder in New York is clear: we need to get handguns off the streets

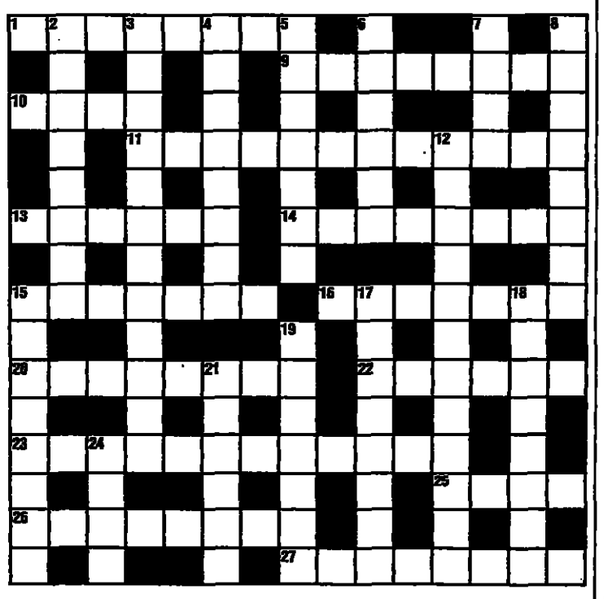
— The New York Times

What's a one-word definition of French culture? Apparently, to French leaders, unpopular. That is the inference from negotiations in Geneva to conclude a new world trade pact *— USA Today*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,411

KNOCKANDO — *A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

Name/Address



ACROSS

1 A person who's unpractical omits name of fragrant oil (8).
9 Crack horse-transport organisation (8).
10 Yearn for water (4).
11 A cold fish: he's artfully concealed his weak point (8,4).
13 Isolate explosive device (6).
14 A magic trick won't start — hint needed (8).
15 Professional living a hand-to-mouth existence (7).
16 One physician I put to rest, drunk (7).
20 Still, I have my own transport (8).
22 Bowler seen at Dover — and at Boulogne (6).
23 Come to the rescue — discover winning card in bottom of trousers (4,2,6).
25 Icy greeting? (4).
26 Cathedral map has item in Latin (8).
27 Went first with a gradient ahead, having a tower (8).

DOWN

2 Bulk reduced through a gentle diet (8).
3 Chap having a fight won't upset Bertie Wooster, for instance (3,5,4).
4 After it rose, hot sun distressed Tennyson's old man (8).
5 Decent about greeting a S. American (7).
6 Sort of descent alien novice might make (6).
7 Drop into a nightclub (4).
8 Refused to accept listed cases (8).
12 Presumably it has more than one wardroom? (8,4).
15 Navigational hazard causing break in bones (5-3).
17 How one might get meat? — he'll share it (8).
18 Happening to fish when the light goes (8).
19 Runs to exit to get back (7).
21 Significance of what's brought in (6).
24 Grow back (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,405

M	A	E	L	S	T	R	O	M		P	I	C	O	T
U		G		C		I		A		A		H		R
M	U	S	T	A	N	G		P	I	N	K	E	Y	E
P		T		V		H			I		E		A	
S	P	A	D	E		T	I	M	E	C	A	R	D	S
	S		N		H		I			U		U		
B	A	Y		G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
E			E		N		S		L			E		
D	I	S	C	R	E	D	I	T	E	D		S	U	S
S		E		E		H		M		U				
P	A	N	H	A	N	D	L	E		A	W	F	U	L
R		I		T		P		S		F		I		
E	C	O	L	O	G	Y		O	U	T	R	A	G	E
A		R		M		E		S		E		L		G
D	I	S	H	Y		W	A	T	E	R	H	O	L	E

Solution to Puzzle No 19,410

O	O	M	P	A	H		W	I	T	H	D	R	A	W
	W		L		I		H		I		E		B	
I	N	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N		P	L	A	Y
	E		T		S		R		S		O		S	
A	R	B	O	R	E	A	L		E	S	T	E	E	M
		C		D		I		L			M			
W	E	I	R			N	O	L	O	N	G	E	R	
	N		A		B		G		Y		O		N	
C	U	L	T	U	R	E	D				R	U	T	H
	M			I		E		S		T				
S	E	P	T	I	C		B	A	N	G	H	E	R	O
	R		W		K		V		A		E		O	
W	A	D	E		B	O	I	S	T	E	R	O	U	S
	T		R		A		S		C		L		T	
D	E	S	P	A	T	C	H		H	O	Y	D	E	N

Winners of last Saturday's competition are: H Hollingsworth, Cannon House, Queen Street, Hitchin, Hertfordshire; J M Nixon, Greystones, Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall; M O Smith, Barberry Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; A Stone, Cambria House, St Peter Street, Winchester; M Eland, Exe Vale Road, Exeter, Devon.

TELEPHONE

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TRAFFIC

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Showers in all areas, prolonged in places. The showers will be of sleet or rain over southern England with snow on the hills. Further north, snow is likely at any level with sleet on the coasts. Bright or sunny spells are expected in most places. Cold with a blustery, penetrating wind. Outlook: outbreaks of rain, sleet and snow are expected to spread across the South, clearing during Monday. Bright in the North with some snow showers.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	55	c	Madrid	7	45	s
Alicante	19	66	s	Majorca	17	63	s
Alex'dria	21	70	c	Malaga	18	61	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Malta	19	66	s
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Melb'rne	28	82	s
Athens	19	66	s	Mexico C*	18	64	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Miami*	26	79	s
Bangkok	26	79	r	Milan	5	41	c
Barbados*	29	84	c	Montreal*	2	36	s
Barcelona	14	57	s	Moscow	-1	30	c
Beirut	19	66	f	Munich	8	46	r
Belgrade	11	52	f	Nairobi	25	77	f
Berlin	6	43	c	Naples	17	63	f
Bermuda*	23	73	f	N Delhi	22	72	s
Biarritz	17	63	s	N York*	10	50	f
Blonde'x	14	57	d	Nice	15	59	s
Brussels	8	46	r	Oslo	-9	16	f
Budapst	10	50	s	Paris	9	48	r
B Aires*	32	90	s	Peking	4	39	s
Cairo	22	72	f	Perth	20	68	f
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Prague	5	41	f
Chicago*	9	48	f	Reykjavik	1	34	c
Ch'church	15	59	c	Rhodes	17	63	f
Cologne	9	48	c	Rio de J	29	84	f
Colombo	30	86	s	Riyadh	22	72	s
Corfu	18	64	s	Rome	16	61	f
Dublin	5	41	s	Salzburg	7	45	c
Dubrovnik	16	61	s	S Frisco*	13	55	d
Faro	19	66	s	Santiago*	33	91	s
Florence	13	55	f	S Paulo*	25	77	f
Frankfurt	8	46	c	Seoul	5	41	r
Funchal	18	64	f	Sing'por	29	84	r
Geneva	11	52	f	St'kholm	-3	27	s
Gibraltar	15	59	s	Strasb'rg	10	50	c
Helsinki	-1	30	sn	Sydney	23	73	s
Hong K	23	73	s	Tangier	16	61	s
Istanbul	5	41	s	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Jersey	12	54	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Jeddah	30	86	s	Tokyo	11	52	s
Jo'burg*	24	75	f	Toronto*	5	41	f
L Palmas	21	70	s	Tunis	18	66	s
Le Touet	10	50	f	Valencia	17	63	s
Lisbon	16	61	f	Vanc'ver*	7	45	r
Locarno	6	43	s	Venice	8	46	f
L.Angels*	16	61	s	Vienna	10	50	c
Luxembg	6	43	c	Warsaw	3	37	c
Luxor	24	75	s	Wash'ton*	8	46	f
				Wel'ngton	14	57	c
				Zurich	11	52	c

* denotes figures are latest available

London 3.52 pm to 7.56 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.06 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.34 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.11 am

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.56 am — Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon rises 5.34 am — Moon sets 2.23 pm
New Moon December 13

London 3.52 pm to 7.57 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.07 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.35 am
Manchester 3.48 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.12 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.57 am — Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon rises 6.48 am — Moon sets 3.13 pm
New Moon tomorrow

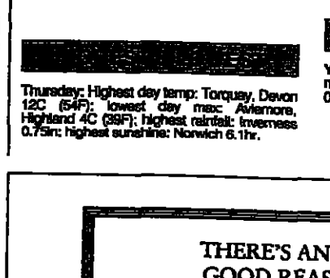
Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

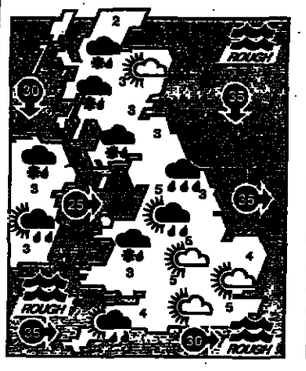
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.68	5	41	rain
Anglesey	-	0.01	9	48	shower
Aviemore	0.6	0.68	4	39	snow
Belfast	3.1	0.02	6	43	shower
Birmingham	4.9	0.02	9	48	sunny
Bognor Regis	2.0	0.01	9	48	cloudy
Bournemouth	2.0	-	10	50	bright
Bristol	3.9	0.02	10	50	bright
Buxton	1.0	1.05	5	41	rain
Cardiff	3.7	0.04	9	48	shower
Clacton	5.6	0.09	10	50	sunny
Cromer	4.7	0.03	x	x	sunny
Eastbourne	2.2	0.02	10	50	cloudy
Edinburgh	3.7	0.41	7	45	bright
Eskdalemuir	2.0	0.30	6	43	shower
Exmouth	2.5	-	10	50	bright
Falmouth	3.6	0.02	11	52	cloudy
Folkestone	3.2	0.03	9	48	bright
Glasgow	1.3	0.17	8	46	shower
Hastings	2.6	-	10	50	bright
Hunstanton	3.0	0.19	8	46	bright
Isle of Man	3.1	0.15	8	46	shower
Jersey	-	0.02	11	52	shower
Kinloss	-	0.72	4	39	rain
Leeds	4.6	0.16	8	46	shower
Lerwick	0.1	0.05	5	41	cloudy
Littlehampton	1.5	-	10	50	cloudy
Liverpool	1.7	0.16	8	46	shower
London	2.8	0.02	10	50	bright
Lowestoft	3.6	0.13	9	48	gale
Manchester	2.1	0.35	8	46	shower
Margate	x	0.02	10	50	bright
Minehead	x	0.03	10	50	bright
Morecambe	-	0.22	8	46	dull
Newcastle	4.4	0.02	8	46	sunny
Nottingham	2.7	0.20	8	46	shower
Penzance	1.3	0.01	11	52	cloudy
Plymouth	2.7	0.01	10	50	bright
Ross-on-Wye	2.1	-	10	50	bright
Seaton Snd	0.7	0.01	10	50	cloudy
Scarborough	5.2	0.48	8	46	gale
Scilly Isles	0.7	-	11	52	drizzle
Shanklin	2.8	0.01	9	48	bright
Southend	5.5	0.06	10	50	bright
Southsea	2.3	0.01	10	50	cloudy
Stornoway	0.6	0.63	5	41	shower
Swanage	2.8	0.01	10	50	bright
Telgnmouth	3.4	-	11	52	bright
Tenby	0.5	0.02	10	50	cloudy
Tiree	1.2	0.12	7	45	hail
Torquay	3.4	-	12	54	bright
Weymouth	1.9	-	11	52	bright
Wick	-	0.32	5	41	rain

These are Thursday's figures

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.36	2.16
Austria Sch	18.85	17.35
Belgium Fr	56.25	51.88
Canada $	2.095	1.995
Cyprus Cyp£	0.790	0.740
Denmark Kr	10.54	09.74
Finland Mkk	9.18	08.38
France Fr	9.14	8.44
Germany Dm	2.66	2.48
Greece Dr	384.50	368.50
Hong Kong $	12.19	11.19
Ireland Pr	1.10	1.02
Italy Lire	2593.00	2438.00
Japan Yen	180.50	161.00
Malta	0.625	0.570
Netherlands Gld	2.980	2.760
Norway Kr	11.62	10.82
Portugal Esc	270.00	251.50
South Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Pta	216.50	202.50
Sweden Kr	12.94	12.14
Switzerland Fr	2.32	2.14
Turkey Lira	21209.0	20208.0
USA $	1.590	1.460

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





Information supplied by Met Office

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1993. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HY, telephone 051-546 2000. Saturday, December 11, 1993. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.43	6.7		
Aberdeen	11.20	4.1	11.42	4.2
Avonmouth	4.54	12.1	5.22	12.4
Belfast	8.53	3.4	9.11	3.6
Cardiff	4.39	11.2	5.07	11.5
Devonport	3.26	5.1	3.54	5.2
Dover	8.40	6.3	9.12	6.3
Falmouth	2.58	4.9	3.24	5.0
Glasgow	10.57	4.7	10.59	4.7
Harwich	9.23	3.8	10.09	3.9
Holyhead	8.11	5.3	8.33	5.5
Hull	3.49	7.0	4.30	7.1
Ilfracombe	3.33	8.5	4.04	8.7
King's Lynn	3.59	6.1	4.39	6.2
Leith	12.00	5.3	12.34	5.3

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	9.03	8.9	9.28	9.1
Lowestoft	8.54	2.5	7.39	2.4
Margate	9.34	4.6	10.17	4.8
Milford Haven	3.57	6.5	4.23	6.6
Newquay	2.52	6.5	3.17	6.7
Oban	3.49	3.7	4.5	3.8
Penzance	2.33	5.2	2.57	5.3
Portland	4.27	2.0	4.47	1.9
Portsmouth	9.09	4.7	9.37	4.8
Shoreham	8.51	6.0	9.25	5.9
Southampton	8.41	4.4	9.12	4.4
Swansea	4.00	8.8	4.27	9.0
Tees	1.13	5.1	1.45	5.2
Wilton-on-Nze	9.25	4.0	10.04	4.1

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6pm, 61 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,004.0 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.5hr.

Thursday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Inverness 0.75in; highest sunshine: Norwich 6.1hr.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (43F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.26in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.4hr.

THERE'S ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO

CELEBRATE

THE FESTIVE SEASON.

£53 Per room

This special offer is valid per room per night, for £53 or less*. Enjoy this exceptional break throughout the period between 10 December 1993 and 14 January 1994, at over 100 Holiday Inn hotels across Europe.

Holiday Inn

STAY WITH SOMEONE YOU KNOW.

CALL OUR RESERVATIONS OFFICE TOLL-FREE ON 0800 897 121, FAX INT. 31-20 656 54 54 OR CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

*Valid at participating hotels. Rooms are limited and subject to availability. Offer is for double-booked rooms. Rooms with two double beds may be requested at check in, but cannot be guaranteed. Rate in local currency excludes VAT. No meals included. This offer is void where restricted or prohibited by law.

هكذا من الأصل



PROFILE 23

Opposites attract at JWT Europe



MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Our City Editor on the pensions conundrum



SPORT 33-40

Fallen ace of tennis courts new fame

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 33

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 1993

RKRK



The bear market is thriving in the saleroom world. Christie's sold this 1908 blue Steiff for £49,000 this week, in what it says is the first sale entirely devoted to teddy bears. Layla Maniera, Christie's teddy bear specialist, says they have been selling them for ten years, but "enthusiasm from collectors has grown. Bears are now accepted as a serious collectors' item". Forthcoming sales, Weekend Money, page 25.

Lloyd's names 'face £8.6bn shortfall' on reserves

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

BELEAGUERED names at Lloyd's could face demands for billions of pounds of fresh funds to fill an £8.6 billion hole in reserves, according to Chatset, the independent insurance market analyst, an increase from the £5 billion estimate made last year.

Although many Lloyd's names have run into difficulties meeting existing claims, the Chatset figures appear to make it impossible to avoid calling on them for more cash to provide adequate reserves against potential risks.

This week, Lloyd's unveiled details of a £900 million settlement offer to names whose money backs the insurance market. The offer is conditional on them abandoning all litigation over losses at Lloyd's. But it would only provide names with part-compensation for losses of £5.5 billion for the latest three years.

Many names have rejected the offer, to be provided from Lloyd's own resources, even though Lloyd's made clear that no higher offer would be forthcoming. Names opposed to the offer claim that the losses are the results of negligent management of syndicates, or possibly worse.

Chatset's latest annual guide to syndicate run-offs at Lloyd's says the pound's fall last year from $1.88 to $1.50, the stream of new information concerning pollution and asbestosis claims, plus the increase in the number of syndicates with open years from 105 to 201, meant that the Chatset estimate of the shortfall in reserves had to be revised up from last year's £5 billion.

Lloyd's has consistently dismissed Chatset's estimates as mere "opinions", but included the analyst's figures in the glossary to recent official documents.

In response to the Chatset estimate of future liabilities, Lloyd's issued a statement which said it had invited Chatset representatives to a meeting to discuss the methodology used. Heidi Hutter, the actuary playing a key part in the restructuring of the insurance market, is expected to lead the discussions.

Lloyd's has three teams of actuaries seeking to establish the extent of names' exposure and has refused to put a figure on it or on any need for further reserves.

Chatset breaks down the under-reserved factor into £6.57 billion on the open-year syndicates with exposure up to and including 1985, plus £769 million for "Lioncover", the Lloyd's-owned syndicate set up to deal with problems arising from the PCW sydicates. In addition, there is £1.28 billion on other open-year syndicates.

Newco, the proposed vehicle for parking all of the "1985 and prior" liabilities, will be looking for £5.6 billion to fund itself, assuming existing reserves of £1 billion, Chatset said. There will also be a further shortfall of £750 million for "Lioncover".

Lloyd's said names hold "substantial reserves" in their trust funds against pollution and asbestosis claims, which together account for about two-thirds of potential liabilities. It said that the Lloyd's business plan, issued last April, set out a plan to reinsure all "1985 and prior" liabilities in Newco, which will take over all related reserves.

But Lloyd's went on to say yesterday that there had been "no coherent attempt" in the past centrally to establish sound data relating to old-year liabilities. So, as a first stage of Newco, detailed information is being collected on all old-year exposures. Until this stage is completed, late in summer 1994, "very little reliable information" will be available, it concluded. Newco is supposed to begin operating in 1996.

Lloyd's had earlier made clear that, if it finds that reserves have to be increased, it will conduct a "phased" call to names for extra funds.

Hanson expects further profit rise

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HANSON, the Anglo-U.S. conglomerate, said in a statement it expected its trading profit would continue to improve in 1994.

But it added that increases in net interest costs would be a "significant factor" against the expected trading profit increase.

Hanson, which last week reported a fall in year pre-tax profit to 1.016 billion stg from 1.286 billion, said it always tried to increase dividends where possible.

"Depending on current trading and the outlook, we shall have this (dividend policy) under active consideration during 1994," it said.

In the statement, Hanson Industries chairman Lord White said he was confident of growth in the U.S.

"Most of our businesses have exceptional upside trading profit potential in an expanding economy," he said, adding he expected growth in, amongst others, chemicals and construction.

Material handling, forest products and coal were also expected to see growth in the US, Lord White said.

Commenting on the previously announced appointment of Derek Bonham as group deputy chairman, current chairman Lord Hanson said in the statement: "The appointment of Derek Bonham as deputy chairman indicates the board's succession plans."

Lord White added: "Against that, however, increases in the net interest cost will be a significant factor." He continued: "Our immediate policy, already under way, is to reduce debt by a phased programme of realisations of some subsidiaries not seen to be 'major activities' which will give rise to exceptional profit this year."

Japanese growth confounds markets

BY A CORRESPONDENT

JAPAN'S economy grew in the July-September quarter, confounding expectations by financial markets of a downturn.

The surprising data failed to convince economists a recovery was at hand but raised the prospect that policymakers may drag their feet over hoped-for stimulative steps.

The government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said on Friday that gross national product rose 0.4 per cent from the previous quarter and an annualised 1.5 per cent in the July-September period after a two per cent annualised drop in April-June.

Gross domestic product (GDP) — the total output of goods and services less net income from overseas production — also rose an annualised 2 per cent after a 1.6 per cent decline in April-June. Economists had widely predicted both GNP and GDP would decline in the quarter.

Housing investment and consumer spending in particular were stronger than expected, economists said.

But private economists said further dips could well lie ahead. "I think it's more of an up and down pattern," said Peter Morgan, chief economist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

"You can't really say it's an upturn."

Some economists said the strong data might give breathing space to the government, under pressure to create a stimulative package, and to the central bank, which financial markets speculate may cut its discount rate soon.

The official discount rate is already at an historic low of 1.75 per cent.

"What this does is further postpone hope for immediate action," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan).

"It buys some time for (Prime Minister Morihiro) Hosokawa and the finance ministry."

Political woes, including a pending decision to open Japan's rice market and a push to pass political reform by year-end, have distracted Hosokawa's coalition from economic policy.

But government leaders have said they plan to act soon.

"Authorities may say they want to wait until after they see later data," said Harumi Ichiki, senior economist at Sumitomo Life Research Institute.

But calls for policy action are hardly likely to diminish.

"I don't think that people will say the economy doesn't need stimulus. There is a broad perception that the economy is weak," Morgan said.

A key Bank of Japan report also released on Friday showed business confidence took a nosedive in November, dropping to its gloomiest level since the mid-1970s when the economy reeled from the shock of high oil prices.

A Bank of Japan official commenting on the "tankan" quarterly corporate survey told reporters the economy was showing no clear signs of recovery but was unlikely to spiral downward.

The "tankan", an important reference for monetary policy, showed that companies increasingly expect business to worsen rather than improve.

An increased number of firms said they had excess workers on their payrolls, although a Band of Japan official said the survey showed Japanese firms planned no drastic layoffs soon.

Stock market, page 24
Hang Seng record, page 24
Share prices, page 31

Trade deficit jumps to £1bn

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN posted a trade deficit of £1 billion in September, reversing what was obviously a rogue improvement in trade performance in August, but also confirming that the trend remains in the right direction.

August's trade deficit of £347 million was clearly an aberration in a year that has seen the shortfall on visible trade running at about £1 billion a month. August's sharp narrowing of the trade gap had been hailed by ministers as a sign of Britain's emerging economic strength.

The Central Statistical Office said that yesterday's figures represented a return to normality after "the fun and games of a summer which saw some freakish figures from month to month". Monthly trade figures have shown spectacular volatility since Britain switched to the European Intrastat system of trade data collection, but the CSO said that the figures now show signs of settling down.

Statisticians expressed confidence in the picture given by third-quarter data as a whole, saying that the trend was for a slight narrowing in the deficit. The Treasury noted that the volume of exports, excluding oil and erratics, rose by 2 per cent in the latest quarter, on the previous quarter, while imports were flat. Against a year ago, export volumes rose by 3.5 per cent, with imports up by only 0.5 per cent.

Michael Saunders, UK economist for Salomon Brothers, said that, in spite of worries that imports across the European Community may be underestimated by the new system, the trends remained favourable. The current account deficit may even undershoot the latest official forecast, in the Budget, of £9.5 billion, he said. At the start of this year, forecasts for the current account clustered around £18 billion.

However, others expressed concern that imports are at record levels although domestic demand remains relatively weak and expressed unease about the effect of recession in Europe. Britain's highly unusual £381 million surplus with the EC recorded in August became a much more believable deficit of £82 million in September. Even then, economists at UBS said that imports from the EC are "hugely under-recorded". They said that exports are struggling in a weakening European market while "even on the numbers as they stand, imports are stirring alongside the recovery in domestic demand".

☐ France's trade surplus grew to FFr9.574 billion in September from FFr2.903 billion in August, seasonally-adjusted figures show, taking the balance so far this year to a surplus of FFr59.299 billion, against a surplus of FFr22.211 billion in the first nine months of 1992.

Valuation boosts Man Utd

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

MANCHESTER United, the publicly-quoted football club, is on a roll. Following this week's decision by bookmakers not to take any more bets on it retaining the Premiership title, it has revealed that an independent valuation has increased the value of its Old Trafford stadium by 43 per cent to £46 million.

The valuation was conducted by Dunlop Heywood consultancy, which at the company's flotation in May 1991 said the stadium, car parks and main training ground were worth £32 million.

Robin Launder, Manchester United's finance director, said: "We are satisfied with the valuation. I thought it would be in the £45-£50 million range."

The valuation was compiled under a depreciated replacement-cost formula, and the main reason for the increase is the completed £10.3 million redevelopment of Old Trafford's Stretford End as an all-seater terrace. Of £16 million raised at the time of the flotation, £6.6 million went towards this redevelopment.

It was estimated recently that the club forfeited £2 million to £6 million when it was eliminated from the European Cup before the league stage. The shares closed at 532p, down 1p, compared with a low for 1993 of 327p.



MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 24, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSION POINTS



Nurses and teachers can enjoy index-linked pensions. Are you in the best possible scheme, and if not, what can you do?
Pages 28, 29

GOOD GIFTS

Wine, baby bonds, kinky boots and teddy bears; a Christmas shopping guide for the investment-conscious
Page 25

WRONG NUMBER



With portable telephones being stolen at the rate of 5,000 a month, insuring the portable office can cost a small fortune
Page 27

RATE PAIN

As savers face further interest rate cuts, some lenders are spreading the pain by restricting reductions for mortgage customers
Page 26

"You mean I get 6.40% gross p.a. on £500 minimum with instant access?"

Yes and you can get the even higher rate of 6.50% gross CAR* by not withdrawing the half-yearly interest. We pay interest on your money for each complete day it is in your account. How many other building societies can say this?

Bullion Share ACCOUNT

It's easy to invest - just phone FREE on 0800 378669 anytime or return the FREEPOST coupon.

Open to everyone - not only teachers!

A member of the Building Societies Association

TEACHERS BUILDING SOCIETY

Allenview House, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AG

*This is the Compound Annual rate which will be achieved only if half-yearly interest is left to accrue in the account and not withdrawn.

The gross rate is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of income tax at the current basic rate from the gross rate. Where the appropriate Inland Revenue declaration has been supplied to the Society, interest can be paid gross. Interest paid half-yearly - 6.50% net, 4.88% net CAR) rate variable.

Bullion Share ACCOUNT

To: Teachers Building Society, FREEPOST, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1BR

Name

Address

Inc. Postcode

TT

The scandal of new pensions for old

It was interesting to hear from Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities & Investments Board, that the Government's "new pensions for old" fiasco is not a matter of "theft or fraud".

Judging from SIB's holding statement on Wednesday it appears that 400,000 out of 500,000 individuals who have taken out personal pension plans since the summer of 1988 may have received "inadequate advice".

This, of course, is polite self-regulation speak: the stuff that covers a multitude of sins. The sin in question is a serious one and, during the forthcoming months, we can expect the Government to attempt to play the affair down, not least because it was the Government, displaying its inimitable flair for recklessness, that encouraged the climate in which such sins were committed. Sir Norman Fowler, chairman of the Conservative Party, deserves special mention, bearing in mind that, as Social Services Secretary during 1981-87, he proved a staunch advocate of portable pensions: products that came into their own after the summer of 1988 when the Government introduced tax incentives to encourage individuals to "opt out" of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

Now for the sinners, the pension providers. These are, for the most part, the life offices, embracing major insurance companies, the high street clearing banks and, alongside them, the high street building societies. Such bodies will, like the Government, attempt to play matters down. They will seek to lay the blame solely on "sales agents" who tend to pop up in three guises: those employed by the provider of the pension, those who fall into the category of tied agents, and "independent financial advisers", a breed that history, and the likes of Roger Levitt, teaches us are distinctly accident prone.

Fimbra, whose task is to regulate the accident prone, just happened to issue nine press releases yesterday. Five related to the termination of firms' membership, three to the suspension of firms' membership and one to the suspension of an individual. Should this give you an unseemly flavour of Fimbra's membership — so be it. After all, it is *you* who are at risk.

Wednesday brought confirmation from SIB that "work is well in hand" to review "transfers and opt-outs" from occupational pension schemes since mid-1988. An independent pilot study of pension transfers, carried out by accountants KPMG Peat Marwick, revealed that "established rules of good selling practice have not been adequately met". SIB, "as a matter of urgency", is co-ordinating a full scale study to "establish the extent of the problem" and decide how those who received "inadequate advice" can be "offered remedies."

In Large's words: "It is likely that some people — we cannot yet know how many — have been



MELVYN MARCKUS

wrongly advised to move from their occupational schemes to alternative personal arrangements. I want to emphasise that the problem is not about theft of their funds nor fraud, but I want to remove uncertainty for everyone who has transferred their pension." He added that, pending the regulators' production of "comprehensive sales practice guidelines" pension providers "must take extra care to ensure they give sound and full advice". And he said: "I am confident that the great majority of firms will co-operate and ensure that none of their customers will suffer as a result of past advice."

This was accompanied by a warning that regulators will "use their powers, as necessary, to ensure appropriate remedies" and the directive that those who have been "badly advised and disadvantaged" must be given the option of "satisfactory alternative arrangements".

What all this jargon tends to disguise is the fact that a host of insurance companies, banks and building societies, many of them household names, have ripped off tens of thousands of people by persuading them to transfer out of occupational pension schemes (enriched by employers' contributions, death in service and spouse's benefits) to personal pension schemes where returns will be governed by the level of investment return. In the most extreme cases, public sector employees, such as civil servants and nurses, have been gulled into relinquishing pensions which enjoyed the perk of perks, namely indexation.

The outcome: lucrative business for the pension providers, engendered by lucrative commission rates for sales agents.

Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential, one of the UK's largest pension providers, was quick to argue that although the company is committed to compensating the "handful" of people who may have suffered from poor advice from its 8,000 strong direct sales force, it sees no reason to assume responsibility for the actions of independent financial advisers.

Newmarch also declared: "If the whole industry is being held as not properly organised and taking advantage of people's ignorance then, at some point, nobody escapes that general proposition." Such, it would seem, is the perspective. Why, one might ask, has SIB taken so long to act? It was way back in July 1992 that Lautro issued "Enforcement Bulletin 16" which warned that under most circumstances those in occupational schemes should not switch. Lautro simultaneously ordered a survey of early terminations of personal pension policies which showed that 50,000 lapsed, after two years or less, during the third quarter of 1992. Fimbra issued similar guidelines to the accident prone but did not choose to order a retrospective review.

Lautro, it has to be said, has issued no less than 10 edicts on pension business since 1988. If Lautro has long been aware of the problem, then so was SIB. And if SIB was aware then, presumably, so was the Government. The report compiled by KPMG Peat Marwick is promised before Christmas. Let us hope it is unexpurgated.

Brown & Tawse cuts its losses

By Martin Flanagan

INTERIM losses have been cut at Brown & Tawse, the steel products distributor, but the company said yesterday that difficult trading had forced it to cut more than 10 per cent of the workforce since March. It also gave warning that the construction industry remained soft, and that significant improvement was unlikely in the short term.

In all, 91 jobs went in the six months to October 3, during which the company reduced pre-tax losses to £2.03 million, against £2.76 million last time. Losses per share eased to 2.7p (LPS 8.5p). The ordinary interim dividend is again passed.

Directors said that markets had, "if anything, deteriorated further" during the first trading half. The company said that it was in talks to try to sell the Pipe & Tube subsidiary.

Gearing at the half-year was 65 per cent, against 82 per cent at the last year-end.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Pensions abuse

"Anecdotal evidence is growing that abuse has been widespread, and that many thousands of individuals have been persuaded out of good company schemes into the more risky and far less lucrative personal pension plans . . ."

Personal Finance — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Norweb takes firm line over level of dividend increase

■ **Norweb says shareholders should expect real dividend growth of between 6 per cent and 8 per cent a year as benefits are shared between investors and customers**

By Neil Bennett

NORWEB, the Manchester electricity distributor, said it is "sticking to its guns" about its dividend policy and will not be forced into making higher payments like its rivals.

The company increased its half-year payout by 13.6 per cent to 6.7p yesterday, one of the lowest increases from the sector during its current reporting season.

Ken Harvey, chairman and chief executive, said the rise is in line with the group's long-term policy. "We made our decision on the dividend before any of the other RECS (regional electricity companies) had reported and we have not been influenced by them.

"The way we have shared our success between shareholders and customers has been sensible and not extreme in either way. Both groups are getting a good deal. We have a dividend policy of giving real growth of 6 to 8 per cent that will last us through the rest of the century," he said.

He was speaking in a week when Midlands Electricity increased its dividend by more than 20 per cent, though it said this rise was intended to rebalance the proportions of interim and final payments.

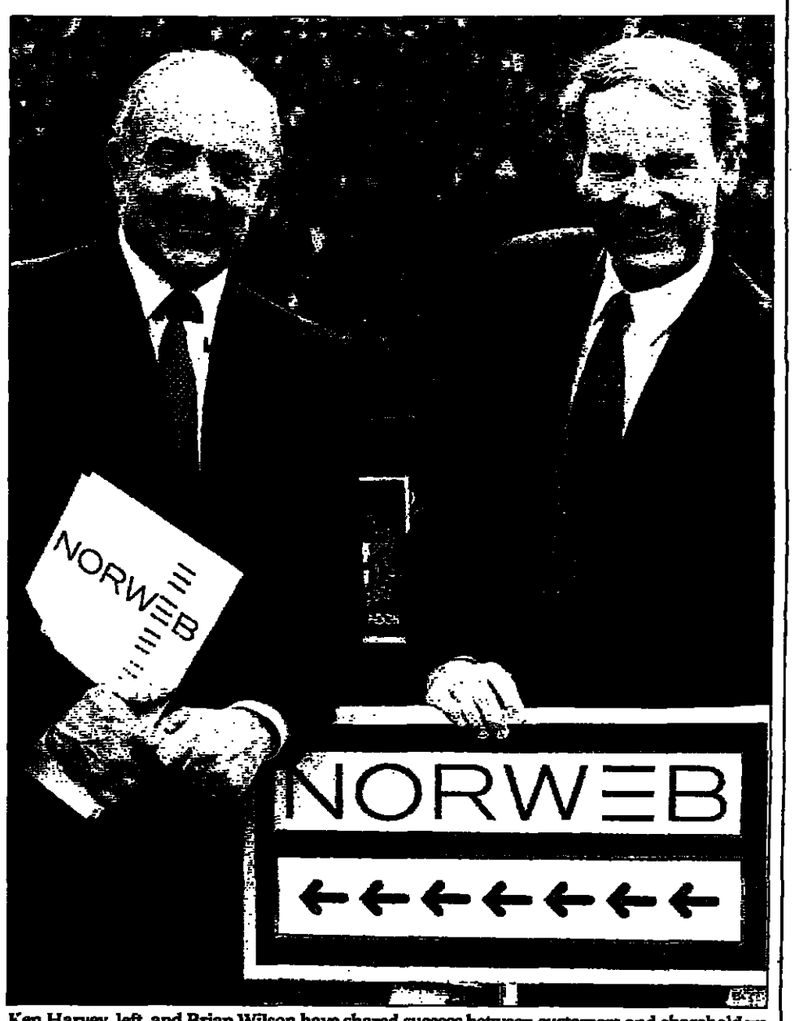
Norweb increased pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £65.1 million in the six months to September 30. The company benefited from lower electricity costs, and a reduction in staff numbers. The amount of electricity the group sold rose 2 per cent, with strong demand from domestic and commercial customers more than offsetting a 2.7 per cent fall in sales to industrial users.

The group managed to pull its electrical contracting business into a profit of £200,000 after a £1 million loss last time and also increased profits from retailing by £300,000 to £1.9 million thanks to the continuing expansion of its out-of-town retailing network.

Norweb cut staff numbers in its electricity business by 117 in the half year and expects to shed another 100 by December 31. Unlike other RECS, it has made no compulsory redundancies since privatisation but relied on natural wastage to reduce costs.

Brian Wilson, Norweb's finance director, said the figures showed underlying growth of 11 per cent which was due to a fall in provisions from last year. Norweb is also the latest REC to turn round into a cash-positive position after paying off all the debts it inherited at privatisation, despite its high level of capital spending. At September 30 it had net cash of £25.1 million, against net borrowings of £39.8 million a year ago.

Tempus, page 23



Ken Harvey, left, and Brian Wilson have shared success between customers and shareholders

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Age-linked rebates may deter return to Serps

THE Government is trying to make it more attractive for older people to stay contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps). It has produced proposals for age-related rebates, rising with age, to replace the present flat-rate rebate for everyone. Since 1988, people have been able to contract out of the state scheme and invest a portion of their national insurance contributions in a private pension. An estimated 6.3 million people have done so. The Government, which was keen to cut the cost of providing Serps, added an extra 2 per cent to the rebate to encourage people to contract out. This has now been cut to 1 per cent for people over 30. However, people in their 40s will get a better pension in the end by staying with Serps or returning to it.

A Department of Social Security consultative paper suggests three ways of introducing age-related rebates. The favoured option is to pay a different level for every age group. A second is to introduce age bands of five years per band. The third option would be a hybrid, maybe paying a flat rate to everyone under 35, with five-year bands for those over 35.

Setback for Attwoods

THE severe recession gripping parts of Europe, and a sharp reduction in currency gains took their toll of first quarter profits at Attwoods, the waste management and mineral extraction group. The company, where Sir Denis Thatcher is deputy chairman, saw pre-tax profits slide to £7.13 million in the three months to October 31, down from £12.3 million, in spite of turnover ahead to £92 million (£77.1 million). The profits fall largely reflects a slump in other income to £175,000, compared with a £4.48 million currency gain last time. Trading profits dipped to £9.6 million (£9.79 million).

Syltone profits steady

SYLTONE, the transport engineering group, said it was back on course after a setback in the second half of its previous financial year when the recession affected year-end trading. In the current year, profits have held steady at £1.23 million in the six months to September 30, compared with £1.22 million previously, and earnings were 4.15p a share, against 4.13p. The interim dividend rises to 1.625p a share from 1.575p, an increase of 3.2 per cent. Tony Clegg, chairman, said the balance sheet remained strong, with gearing easing slightly to 22.5 per cent. Syltone shares rose 5p to 158p.

Sanderson advances

SANDERSON Electronics, the computer products and services group, has cut gearing to 90 per cent from 147 per cent and expects borrowings to fall further. Lower interest charges underpinned a rise in pre-tax profits to £3.3 million, from £2.8 million, in the year to September 30. Earnings rose to 25.4p a share from 24p. A first interim dividend of 5.4p for the year to September 30, 1994 has been declared. A first interim dividend of 5.4p was paid in February and a second interim of 4.5p in July. The gearing reduction follows the sale of most of an investment in General Automation Inc in America.

Pearson sale nets £200m

PEARSON, the media and banking group, has received a £200 million cash injection following the sale of 55 per cent of Camco International, its oilfield equipment and services subsidiary. Proceeds from the sale of 13.75 million Camco shares totalled £130 million and £70 million of inter-company debt will be eliminated. The cash is to be invested in Pearson's core businesses. After writing back goodwill, Pearson will report a non-operating loss on the transaction in its 1993 results. It will retain the rest of its Camco interest "for a limited period". Pearson shares rose 7p to 588p.

Andrews Sykes in red

ANDREWS Sykes Group, the heating, air conditioning and pumps supplier, made a pre-tax loss of £2.34 million in the six months to September 30 (£403,000 profit). The company incurred £2.05 million of exceptional losses on the closure of its Swedish subsidiary and the sale of Centahire. Turnover fell to £25.1 million (£27.7 million). The interim dividend is being passed (1.4p), as previously indicated in September, and the convertible preference dividend is reduced to 1.2p (3.5p). There is a loss per share of 17.9p (0.3p earnings), with an adjusted loss of 1.9p (1.5p earnings).

LIMITED OFFER PLEASE HURRY

FIXED RATE INVESTMENT

7.00% GUARANTEED

Investment rates are still falling, but if you invest in TEMPO from the Cheshire, with £5,000 or more, you can benefit from guaranteed fixed interest over a twelve month investment period.

Investments of £5,000 or over receive a rate of 6.50% gross and investments of £25,000 or over an exceptional rate of 7.00% gross.

Plus on investments of £50,000 and over, you will automatically receive your interest paid gross.

For more details or to open an account, just call into your nearest Cheshire branch, write to us FREE at the address below or telephone us FREE on

FREEPHONE 0800 243278

PLEASE HURRY - LIMITED OFFER

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

TAKING CARE OF YOUR INTERESTS

FREEPOST, CASTLE STREET, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE SK11 6YA.

Minimum investment £5,000. Maximum investment £500,000. The published rate on the date of opening is guaranteed for the period of investment. Rates are correct at the time of printing. No withdrawals during the period of investment are permitted. Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%), which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers or, subject to the required certificates, can be paid gross. Member of the Building Societies Association, Investors Protection Scheme and Banking Services Ombudsman Scheme. Assets exceed £1.2 Billion.

Jobless rate curbs progress at W&D

By Martin Flanagan

AN unemployment rate of 13.7 per cent in its Black Country heartland pinned back progress at Wolverhampton & Dudley, the regional brewer. The construction downturn also kept many manual workers out of its "estate boozers", said David Thompson, managing director.

He spoke as the company unveiled a 3.7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £36.5 million (£35.2 million). However, stripping out £1 million attributable to an extra week's trading in the 53 weeks to October 3, profits were largely unchanged.

Conflicting signals were coming from consumers, said Mr Thompson, with beer sales below last year, but food sales in its managed public houses up 70 per cent, and higher gaming machine income. Wolverhampton & Dudley, known for its Banks's bitter, saw a 2.5 per cent dip in beer volumes, slightly worse than the estimated national volume decline of 2.3 per cent.

Camerons, the Hartlepool brewer, which Wolverhampton & Dudley bought from Brent Walker in 1992, outstripped expectations. Overall, however, Mr Thompson said he was cautious about 1994. The total dividend rises 10.5 per cent to 12.6p via a 7.9p final on earnings per share up to 38.6p from 37.4p.

☐ Fuller, Smith & Turner, the London brewer, disclosed static interim pre-tax profits of £3.76 million (£3.75 million) in the six months to October 2. The dividend rises 5 per cent to 2.52p. The results include a £191,000 exceptional loss on the sale of three properties.

Ofwat under fire from Welsh Water

By Carl Mortished

WELSH Water has attacked Ofwat's proposals on future rates of return for water companies. The utility, which yesterday announced an 8 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 8.45p a share, criticised Ofwat's proposed 5 to 6 per cent return for not taking into account its massive investment programme.

Iain Evans, chairman, said he found it difficult to accept that a business with a mandatory capital programme extending over many years and absorbing 50 per cent of revenue should be regarded as virtually risk-free.

Welsh Water spent £75 million in the six months to September 30 on improvements to waste-water treatment and is to invest a total of £200 million on infrastructure for the full year to March 31.

Paul Twamley, finance director, said that the water companies' capital expenditure programme was not voluntary and could not be switched off by the companies. "We will always be spending more cash than we get in. The proposed rate of 5 to 6 per cent is equal to a risk-free return."

Welsh Water made a pre-tax profit of £77 million in the first half, up 3 per cent on the same period last year, but turnover was up 41 per cent to £261 million because of a full six-months' contribution from Acer, the engineering services business acquired in February, which made a £1.6 million operating profit. Welsh Water has secured a £1 million contract to treat waste for a major dairy company but the group's pipelines business lost £1.4 million in the first half.

Ashanti's golden float is showcase for Lonrho

From Colin Campbell
in Accra

MOST gold mines of 100 years' age are exhausted, if not dead. By contrast, Ghana's Ashanti gold mine, 25 per cent of whose shares are being sold by the Ghanaian government early next year, looks to have life in it for at least another 100.

Sam Jonah, managing director of Ashanti Goldfields, which employs almost 10,000 workers and whose shafts run down to 5,200ft, is already looking into the next century. He believes that there are sufficient reserves to ensure mining for another 50 years at least, and hints that although today's operations are solely Ghana-based, Ashanti will, in time, mine in foreign lands as well.

The 1994 flotation will follow an international share placing with institutions and should value Ashanti at about $1 billion.

A percentage of the equity will be reserved for Ghanaian institutions and public, and a listing on the Ghanaian stock exchange is planned.

London analysts say, even ahead of roadshows in London and Europe, that there is widespread investment interest in "this fabled, rich, and low-cost mine inland from the Gold Coast". In the early 1900s, grades of one ounce of gold for every tonne milled were common. Even today, rich pockets of gold are visible. Some veins are so fabulous that, for security, wire netting is bolted over the rock face until extraction gets under way. The company's motto is "Every ounce counts".

Ashanti's operating costs, at about $172 an ounce, place it in the lower quartile of world costs.

Ashanti made net profits of $56.2 million in the year to September 30, 1991, and net profits of $63.6 million in 1992. On the same accounting basis, 1993 net profits are thought to have been $109 million.

The shares are expected to be priced to be attractive relative to South African and Australian gold shares. If Ashanti were in Nevada, the prospective rating might well challenge the 30 times ratios of certain American gold shares.

Anywhere else in the world, just one bloc of the Ashanti mine would be a single gold mine in its own right.

Ashanti, listed in London in 1897, was taken over in 1969 by Tiny Rowland, then Lonrho's sole chief executive, for £3 million in cash and shares. Since 1972, ownership has been 55 per cent Ghanaian government, which appoints the chairman, and 45 per cent Lonrho, which manages the operation.

The float will bring the government an an estimated $250 million. Lonrho will automatically again become Ashanti's largest single shareholder, and has declared that it has "no intention of selling a single share". Whether Lonrho uses the float to buy more shares remains to be seen.

Ashanti declines to say whether it might use the opportunity of flotation to raise additional capital for further development.

Flotation will give stock market visibility to one of Lonrho's more significant assets, and be positive for calculation of Lonrho's net worth. It will also concentrate investors' minds on Lonrho's other mining interests, notably the 73 per cent owned platinum mines in South Africa.

Ashanti's gold production has risen from 220,000 ounces in 1987 to 770,000 in the year to September 30. The 1994 target is 840,000 ounces, and Ashanti is set to be a million-ounce-a-year producer by 1996.

Ashanti expects to have been granted, by next month, an adjacent 169 sq km concession area, making an overall concession of 509 sq km. Such additional acreage would give Ashanti a total gold resource of at least 31.8 million ounces, and possibly more 40 million ounces. Since 1897, Ashanti has produced 21 million ounces.

Subject to flotation details and the gold price, Ashanti shares should prove a worthy addition to any mining portfolio.

هكذا من الأصل

J WALTER THOMPSON EUROPE: **Allen Thomas and Miles Colebrook**

Well-suited to creating an ethos of success

partners in power

The advertising world divides into two camps, the creatives and the suits. The creatives write the words, the suits, or account handlers as they prefer, deal with clients.

Traditionally, the creatives favour baseball hats and, further up the pecking order, Giorgio Armani, their creativity floats upon a couple of bottles of Scotch a day and they are inclined to punch holes in partition walls when the well of creation runs dry.

The suits' suits are impeccably pin-striped Savile Row, and they drink Puligny-Montrachet at four-hour lunches with the clients. Essentially diplomats, they are not allowed to punch anybody. Their main purpose is to ensure the clients never meet the creatives, that being the surest way to lose the account.

Few advertising types openly agree with these caricatures, but they accept the other received wisdom that the two types fight like cat and dog.

The top duo at the European offshoot of J Walter Thompson, one of the most powerful advertising agencies in the world, exemplify the divide. At 49, Allen Thomas, chairman and chief creative officer, is a Billy Bunter figure in owlish glasses and a distressing line in loud checks. Miles Colebrook, 45, president and chief executive officer, is smoothly turned out in a restrained grey woollen suit.

Where they split with tradition is in having been, for decades, the best of friends. They socialise and even holiday together. Endless banter flows between them and they play practical jokes, such as the infamous bacon incident: Thomas was walled up in a health farm. On the third day of starvation he was convinced he was starting to hallucinate. "I could smell bacon cooking. I looked out of the window and there, kneeling on the ground, was Miles with a primus stove and a packet of Wall's bacon. He was tormenting me."

Colebrook recalls their first meeting in the late 1960s. A very junior account executive, he sat in on a meeting between Thomas, already an important face at JWT, and a client. "I didn't say anything, I was just observing," he says. Was he scared? "I was learning." ("He was learning to be scared," Thomas interjects.) "At the end of the meeting, as we left," says Colebrook, "someone shouted: 'Oi! Who's Tweedledum?'. Those were the first words I heard him say." Within a year they were close friends. They became a force in JWT London at a relatively young age, in part, Colebrook believes, because of their unusual friendship. "I think clients smelled it, and that helped enormously. Twelve years after we first met, we were running Thompson in London."

Most people in advertising arrive there by a circuitous route. Colebrook's arrival was odder than most: into JWT's mailing department at 17, from an impeccable, upper-middle class childhood funded by his father's successful meat business. "I was a rebel. I hated the confines of school [Shrewsbury]. I wanted to get out and work." One obstacle was his father. "We made a deal. I could leave school providing I got myself a job on my own in three months, and he would not support me."

Colebrook, inclined to revealing phrases such as "the accountant in me", describes himself as an "efficiency freak". He adds: "I'm something of a frustrated creative person. This is one of the businesses where you can be surrounded by creativity but actually do the work you like."

He goes on: "I could never be a creative person because I couldn't spend the hours thinking about things... I have to do something all the time, business life, private life, whatever. I can't do nothing."

Thomas's background is less conventional. His Welsh father moved to London to run a coffee bar business. Thomas, too, left school early, at 16 — "like Miles I was extremely keen to start work as soon as I could". He was put off journalism by the shorthand, which he could never master.

He is incomparably the more relaxed of the two, even though colleagues say he has a temper and has been known to leave meetings abruptly to calm down. He thinks the differences between the two, as well as their unexpected friendship, have been an advantage. "I think the reason Miles and I have always worked well together... is that we're completely opposite. It's that that makes it work. We don't tread on each other's toes because we have no interest in each other's feet."

The two admit they have argued, and still do. Colebrook says: "We've never let things hang around for more than a day." When Thomas demurs he is interrupted. "I always agree and he argues," says Colebrook. "You can see exactly what it's like."

With a reputation for slow steadiness, JWT has been dubbed the Ministry of Advertising. "They try and convince people they are young and wacky, but they aren't," says a rival agency writer. "It's like grandad with a punk hair-cut — it doesn't really work."

Thomas admits there is a "very particular atmosphere" there. "If you are right for it you fit like a glove, and if you are wrong you tend to find out very, very quickly." Unusually, he spent four years with a rival agency, his "sabbatical", returning in 1982. "I wanted to be a creative director and we already had one in London."

By the early 1980s, the creative side at JWT London was "very weak", Colebrook recalls. "It was pretty clear things were going to have to change. I said to my boss, we have to get Allen back."

By the end of the decade, Colebrook was in charge of JWT Europe, which manages $2.3 billion of business across 25 offices. Thomas moved across in February 1991.

Thomas sums up the difference between the two: they were travelling to Geneva airport, desperate to catch the last plane, when the train broke down. "Miles leapt out and started giving orders, saying you do this, you do that. He said: 'You sort out the taxi, and you the money' — and he turned to me and said, 'And you stop laughing'."

MARTIN WALLER



MICHAEL POWELL

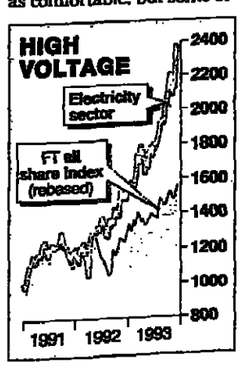
Spark of friendship: the bond between Miles Colebrook, left, and Allen Thomas is unusual among advertising types

TEMPUS

Power cut may cast a shadow

THE handful of investors who received a decent allocation in the privatisation of the electricity companies three years ago can hardly believe their luck. At the time the RECs appeared to be dull utilities. Since then they have become about the most successful group of businesses in the market, as relentless cost reductions have allowed profits and dividend to leapfrog.

The RECs' progress hit a new high yesterday when Norweb was forced to defend itself for offering shareholders a dividend rise of "only" 13.6 per cent, ten times the rate of inflation. The RECs have driven far more cost out of their business than the government ever thought possible at flotation. This, combined with their ability to exploit an increasingly competitive power generation market, is lifting their profits at an astonishing rate. In other regulated industries such as water, a real rate of return of around 6 per cent is seen as comfortable, but some of the RECs are achieving twice that.



This state of affairs is unlikely to remain unaltered and action should come in the distribution review next July, which will set the price formulae for the distributors for 1995 onwards. While the market is prepared for the formulae to be tightened, it could be surprised by the severity of the action Offer takes. Stephen Littlechild could well decide to order an immediate, one-off price cut.

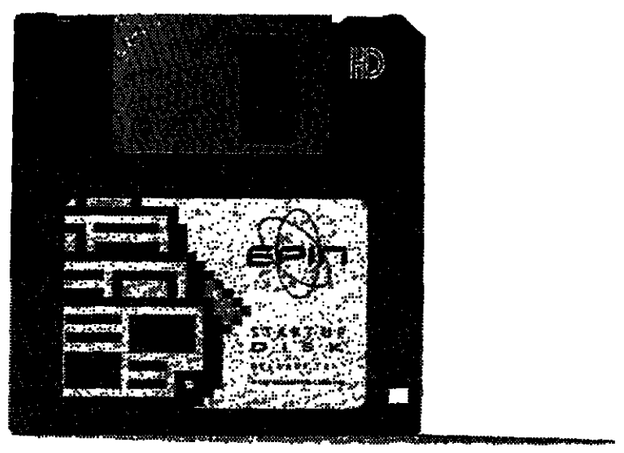
The RECs' profits would slump but it would reduce their rate of return to a more moderate 7 per cent. The cut would be also be a political masterstroke, since it would come into force in March 1995, alleviating the second tranche of VAT.

But investors do not seem to have fully assessed the damage a one-off tariff cut, combined with tough pricing formulae, could do to profit and dividend prospects. Any enthusiasm for the shares should be tempered by regulatory reserve.

Chelsfield

WHEN smaller property companies trade at vast premiums to net asset value it seems odd that Chelsfield is being offered at a discount to its published NAV of 165p. But anyone attracted by Elliott Bernerd's dealmaking skills should look closely at Chelsfield's portfolio.

A large part of the assets are accounted for by Wentworth, a golf course bought for £32 million in 1989. Chelsfield sold off 40 per cent of the golf course in the same year for £32 million, putting a £48 million price on Chelsfield's remaining interest. Much of the company's growth comes from an asset which has not been formally valued for five years. Chelsfield has other irons in the fire and the company's friends injected £62 million last year. But uncertainties remain, including gearing which is calculated at 62 per cent or 30 per cent if a subordinated loan is called equity. Canny investors will call it debt and stay away.



NOW THERE'S A PROCUREMENT JOURNAL THAT GOES "BEEP" IN YOUR OFFICE WHEN SOMEBODY WANTS TO BUY WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

As a supplier to the utility industry your company stands to win or lose a great deal under the EC Public Procurement legislation which came into effect in 1993.

This legislation means that utility companies are now legally obliged to put a very large portion of their purchasing requirements out to public tender on a pan-European basis. This can cover anything from stationery to a steam turbine. So this new legislation has created new possibilities for a wide range of suppliers.

If you are already a supplier to an electricity utility you will now be faced with increased competition. If you are not a supplier to the industry, it will mean new opportunities. However, you can only fight competition and seize opportunity when you know which utilities are publishing procurement requirements. The faster you know that, the better your advantage.

EPIN is a new pan-European computerised information network which gives suppliers the fastest possible access to utility procurement requests.

It provides supplier companies with detailed profiles of all EPIN utility members and an instant view of their current procurement requests. This makes EPIN one of the most powerful direct marketing tools available today. By joining EPIN, your company and product information will be on line and available to EPIN member utilities.

If you are a supplier to other public utilities it will also provide you with an instant view of a summary of all public tenders with comprehensive search facilities.

You can use EPIN to further investigate business opportunities, research prospective utility clients, evaluate market trends and to analyse successful and failed bids. And it supplies you with the required information in a choice of European languages.

For further information on how you can eliminate delays on EC utility tender information, fill in and send us this coupon now, or telephone our information line.

Utility and industry groups working with EPIN now include, National Power, Powergen, Nuclear Electric, Scottish Hydro Electric, Scottish Nuclear, Northern Ireland Electricity, MANWEB, NORWEB, East Midland Electricity, Yorkshire Electricity Group, South Wales Electricity, Southern Electric, UNESA (Spain), ENEL (Italy), ESB (Ireland) and the European Commission.

EPIN European Procurement Information Network Ltd. is a subsidiary of Electricity Supply Board (Ireland). EPIN is partially funded by the European Community PRISMA Programme.

Please send to: EPIN Ltd., 122 London Road, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 6QJ, England.
Tel: 010-353-1-662-2022 Fax: 010-353-1-703-8035.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Company Position: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

S.T. 1

EPIN

EUROPEAN PROCUREMENT INFORMATION NETWORK

Bull run under pressure as investors cash in

STOCK MARKET

EVIDENCE that the bull market may be running out of steam was provided by bank shares, which suffered double figure losses as investors began cashing in their gains.

NatWest Securities, the broker, has now joined UBS and Morgan Stanley by urging clients to take profits in the wake of the sector's recent strong performance. NatWest says the banks are enjoing a period of low interest rates, low inflation and stable economic growth for the first time since the 1960's and investors should benefit from above average dividend payments. But apart from **Bank of Scotland**, up 2½p at 228½p, and **TSB Group**, 5p better at 243p, it claims the rest are fully valued. NatWest remains a seller of **Lloyds Bank**, down 20p at 621p, and **Abbey National**, 15p off at 466p, because pressure on profits will limit the scope for dividend payments. Falls were also recorded in **Barclays**, 19p to 611p, **National Westminster**, 21p at 594p and **Standard Chartered**, 17p to £12.12. Kleinwort Benson is urging clients to switch from Barclays into NatWest.

The rest of the equity market encountered another day of volatile trading, with a turnround of 27 points as the two-week account drew to a close. But it was the bears which gained the upper hand as investors took profits before the three-week Christmas account which starts on Monday. Selling was easily absorbed, with sentiment underpinned by a firm bond market and hopes of another early cut in base rates.

The FT-SE 100 index saw an early fall of almost 17 points wiped out and replaced with a rise of 10.8, before reversing again later in the day to close 10.3 down at 3,261.3, a rise on the record-breaking account of 149.9 points. A total of 862 million shares were traded.

Cadbury Schweppes jumped 19p to 489p after Hoare Govett, its own broker, increased its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year by £10 million to £410 million. That compares with £333 million last year.

Greenalls, which reported earlier this week, lost 6p at 409p after Cazenove placed 5.6 million shares at 400p. They are believed to have formed part of the family holding.

The new management team at **Business Technology**, the photocopier group, is beginning to flex its muscles to steer the company back to recovery. BTG is believed to be close to making its first acquisition. The deal is expected to be accompanied by a placing of shares. BTG shares finished ½p firmer at 14½p.

SW Wood, the former metal basher, firmed 1p to 94p. It is changing its name to Wyndeham Press and will concentrate in specialist printing and packaging. USM-quoted **Whinny Mackay Lewis**, the architectural consultant, gained a further 3p to 30p and has now almost doubled in price in the past two weeks. Bob "The Bear" Morton, the financier, has bought 11 per cent of the company and may be looking for control.

Pearson, the publisher, firmed 8p to 589p after confirming that it will be raising about £200 million from the flotation of a 55 per cent stake in Camco International, its US oil services subsidiary.

Hanson fell 3½p to 266½p, despite trying to reassure shareholders that a positive recovery was underway.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts registered further gains, despite closing below their best. The March long gilt rose £3/16 to £118 11/32 as 68,000 contracts were traded. Index-linked issues scored gains of up to £½ and remaining supplies of index-linked 2½ per cent 2024 were exhausted. In longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 hardened £3/16 to £125¼, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 gained a tick to £115¾.

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

New York — The Dow Jones industrial average had inched ahead at midday by 1.67 points, to stand at 3,731.45. The broader market stayed in negative mood with declining issues leading advancing shares ten to eight.

☐ **Tokyo** — Stocks closed firmer but off highs on a late flurry of dealer position squaring. The Nikkei average ended at 17,257.43, up 195.52 points.

☐ **Frankfurt** — Share prices ended lower, with the Dax index 14.67 points off at 2,161.13.

☐ **Sydney** — The all ordinaries index closed 10.8 points down at 2,084.9.

☐ **Singapore** — The Straits Times industrials index ended at a new high of 2,220.40, up 54.08 points. (Reuter)

	Dec 10 midday	Dec 9 close
AMP Inc	59½	60
Abbott Corp	66¾	66¾
Abbott Labs	28⅞	28¾
Aetna Life	62	62¼
Ahmanson (HF)	19½	19½
Air Prod & Chem	44¼	44¾
Albertson's	25⅞	25⅞
Alcan Aluminum	21¼	21½
Allen Standard	52⅜	52¼
Allied Signal	75⅜	75½
Aluminum Co of Am	72	71½
Amax Gold Inc	7¼	7¼
Amerada Hess	45¼	45
Amer Brands	33¾	33½
Amer Cyanamid	51¼	51½
Amer El Power	36½	36¼
Amer Express	31½	31½
Amer Gen Corp	38⅜	38¼
Amer Home Pr	62¾	62¾
Amer Intl	89¾	89¾
Amer Stores	41¼	41¼
Amer T & T	54¼	54¼
Ameritech	76½	76½
Amoco	52¼	51½
Anheuser-Busch	50½	50¾
Apple Computer	29⅞	30
Archer Daniels	22½	22⅞
Arkla	7¼	7¼
Armco	6	6¼
Armstrong Wrld	46¾	46¾
Asarco	22¾	22
Ashland Oil	33¾	33⅞
Atl Richfield	102½	103
Auto Data Pro	55½	55¼
Avery Dennison	29¾	29¾
Avnet Products	51¼	50⅞
Baker Hughes	19⅝	19⅞
Baltim Gas & El	25¾	25¾
Banc One	38	37¾
BankAmerica	44⅝	45⅛
Bank of NY	55¾	55⅝
Bankers Tr NY	77¼	78⅛
Barnett Banks	41¼	41¼
Baxter Intl	22¾	23
Becn Dickinsn	34⅞	35¼
Bell Atlantic	59¼	59¾
BellSouth	56½	57
Black & Decker	20¾	20⅞
Block (HAR)	40⅜	41¼
Boeing	43¾	59¾
Boise Cascade	23⅜	24
Borden Inc	18⅛	18
Bristol Myrs Sq	58⅜	58⅜
Browning Ferris	26⅝	27¼
Burlington Nthn	56½	56¾
CBS	300	302¼
CNA Financial	76¾	77¼
CPC Intl	46⅛	46⅝
CSX	85¾	84½
Campbell Soup	42	41⅞
Can Pacific	16¼	16¼
Cpnl Cities ABC	631	632½
Cpnl Holdings	37¾	38⅛
Carolina Pwr	28⅝	29
Caterpillar	85½	86
Central & SW	29½	29¾
Champion Intl	54⅛	54⅛
Chase Manhat	33¾	33¾
Chemical Bk	39⅜	40¼
Chevron Corp	86¼	86
Chrysler	54½	53
Chubb Corp	79	80
Cigna Corp	62⅜	62¾
Cincrp	35¾	35¾
Clorox	52¾	52¾
Coastal Corp	37¾	37¾
Coca Cola	43¾	43¾
Colgate-Palmolive	60	60¾
Columbia Gas	23¾	23¾
Comdisco Inc	28⅝	28¾
Compaq Comp	71¼	71½
Comp Ass Int	41	40¾
Conagra	26	26¼
Cons Edison	31¼	31½
Cons Nat Gas	45¾	45¾
Cons Rail	61¼	61¼
Cooper Inds	49¾	50
Corning Inc	26¾	26¾
Crown Cork	39¾	39¾
Dana Corp	55¾	54¾
Dayton Hudson	69¾	70
Deere	69¾	70¼
Delta Air Lines	59¼	59
Deluxe Corp	34½	35¼
Detroit Edison	31¼	31¼
Digital Equip	35	35¼
Dillard Dept St	39	39¾
Disney (Walt)	41¾	42¼
Dominion Res	44¾	44½
Donelley (RR)	29¾	30¼
Dover Corp	61¼	60¾
Dow Chemical	58	57¾
Dow Jones	37½	38¾
Dresser	21	20¾
Duke Power	41¼	41½
Dun & Bradstreet	62¾	62¾
Du Pont	47	46¾
Eastman Kodak	63¾	63¾
Eaton Corp	51	50¾

	Dec 10 midday	Dec 9 close
Emerson Elec	59¾	58¾
Engelhard Corp	24½	24¾
Enron Corp	28	28⅜
Entergy Corp	35¾	36
Ethyl Corp	18⅜	18⅜
Exxon	62¾	63⅜
FMC Corp	45¾	45¼
FPL Group	37½	37¾
Federal Express	68⅝	68¾
Fed Nat Mtge	78⅜	78¾
First Chicago	41½	43
First Interstate	60⅝	61½
First Union Rlty	10¾	10¾
Fleet Fincl Grp	31½	31½
Fluor Corp	41¼	41¼
Ford Motor	63¾	63½
GTE Corp	35¾	36¼
Gannett	56¾	56½
Gap Inc Del	42¾	42¾
Gen Dynamics	91½	92¼
Gen Electric	101½	101
Gen Mills	61¼	61¼
Gen Motors	56	56½
Gen Reinsurance	110¾	111
Gen Signal	35¼	34¾
Genuine Parts	35¾	36¾
Georgia Pac	71½	70¾
Gillette	61¾	62
Glaxo ADR	30¾	30¾
Goodrich (BF)	41¾	41¾
Goodyear Tire	46	46¾
Grace (WR)	39¾	39½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28½	28½
Grwt Wstn Fin	19¾	19¾
Halliburton	30¼	29¾
Harcourt General	37¾	38
Heinz (HJ)	36¾	36¾
Hercules	110¾	109¾
Hershey Foods	50¾	50¾
Hewlett Packard	75¾	76½
Hilton Hotels	53¾	53
Home Depot	41¾	42
Homestake Mng	21¾	22
Honeywell	34	33¾
Household Intl	33¾	33¾
Houston Indr	46	45¾
Humana	17¾	18
ITT Corp	92½	91¾
Illinois Tool	36½	36¾
INCO	26¾	26¾
Ingersoll Rand	38½	38
Inland Steel	23¾	23¾
Intel Corp	58	58
IBM	54½	53¾
Intl Flav & Fr	111½	112
Intl Paper	66¾	66½
James River Va	18¾	18¾
Johns & Johns	43¾	44¼
K Mart	22¾	22¾
Kellogg	59¾	60¾
Kerr-McGee	44¾	44
Kimberly-Clark	51	51¾
Knight-Ridder	58½	59¾
Lilly (Eli)	56¾	57½
Limited Inc	18	18
LIN Bdcasing	113¾	112¾
Lincoln Nat	42¾	43¾
Litton	64¾	64
Liz Claiborne	21¾	21¾
Lockheed Corp	69¾	69¾
Louisiana Pac	38¾	37¾
MCI Commun	24¾	24¾
Marriott Int	27¾	27¾
Marsh & McLan	79½	80
Masco Corp	35¾	36¼
May Dept St	42¾	41¾
Maytag Corp	16¾	16¾
McCaw Cellular	51¾	51½
McDonalds	57¾	57¾
McDonnell D	114¾	114¾
McGraw Hill	66¾	66¾
Mead Corp	44¾	44¾
Medtronic	84¾	82¾
Mellon Bk	53¾	53
Melville Corp	39¾	39¾
Merck Inc	32¾	32¾
Merrill Lynch	47	47¾
Minnesota Mine	107½	108¼
Mobil Corp	75¾	74
Monsanto	73	73¾
Morgan (JP)	71	71¾
Motorola Inc	91¼	91¾
Nat Medical	12¾	13¾
Nat Semi	15	14¾
Nat Service Ind	24½	24¾
Navistar Int	22¾	23
NBD Bancorp	35	35¾
NY Times A	26¾	26½
Newmont Mng	56¾	58¾
Ning Mohawk	20¾	20¾
Nike B	46¾	46¾
NL Industries	5¾	5¾
Nordstrom	34¾	34¾
Norfolk Sthrn	69	69¾
Nthn State Pwr	43	43¾
Norwest Corp	24	23¾
Nynex Corp	41¾	41¾
Occidental Pet	18	17¾
Ohio Edison	21¾	21¾
Oracle Systems	35¾	36¾

	Dec 10 midday	Dec 9 close
Onyx Energy Co	18½	18½
Owens Corning	46¾	46¾
PNC Financial	29¾	29¾
PPG Industries	71¼	71¼
Paccar Inc	62¾	62¾
Pacificorp	19¾	19¾
Pac Enterprises	34¾	34¾
Pac Gas & Elect	34¾	34
Pac Telesis	57¾	57¾
Pall Corp	19¾	19¾
Panhandle East	22	22
Paramnt Comm	61½	61½
Parker Hannifin	36¾	36¾
Penney (JC)	53¾	53¾
Pennzoil	55¾	55
Pepsico	40¾	41¼
Pfizer	69¾	69¾
Phelps Dodge	48¾	47¾
Philadel Elec	28¾	28¾
Philip Morris	93¾	89¾
Phillips Pet	27¾	27¾
Pitney Bowes	41¾	41¾
Polaroid	39¾	39¾
PriceCostco	20¾	20
Primerica	41¾	42
Procter & Gmbl	57	57¾
Pub Serv E & G	31¾	31¾
Quaker Oats	74	75¾
Ralston Purina	37¾	37¾
Raytheon Corp	37¾	37¾
Raytheon	62¾	63¾
Reebok Intl	28¾	28¾
Reynolds Metals	47¾	47
Roadway Svcs	62¾	65¾
Rockwell Intl	36¾	36¾
Rohm & Haas	54¾	54¾
Royal Dutch	102½	102¾
Ruubermaid	33¾	33¾
Safeco Corp	56¾	56
St Paul's Cos	41	41¾
Salomon Inc	45¾	45¾
Santa Fe Pac	21¾	21¾
Sara Lee Corp	27¾	27¾
Scecorp	20¾	20¾
Schering Plough	64¾	65¾
Schlumberger	59¾	58¾
Scott Paper	39¾	39¾
Seagram	36¾	36¾
Sears Roebuck	54¾	54¾
Shell Trans	62¾	62¾
Sherwin Wilms	33¾	33¾
Skyline Corp	17¾	17¾
Snap-On-Tools	37¾	37¾
Southern Co	42¾	42¾
Sthwestern Bell	42¾	42¾
Sprint Corp	32¾	33¾
Stanley Works	40¾	41
Sun Company	30¾	31¾
Sunitrust	44¾	44¾
Supervalu	32¾	33
Synnex Corp	16¾	16¾
Sysco Corp	30¾	30¾
TRW Inc	66¾	66¾
Tandem Comp	11¼	11¼
Tandy Corp	46¾	47
Telecom Corp	3	2¾
Teledyne	25¾	25¾
Temple Inland	50¾	50¾
Tenneco	48¾	48¾
Texaco	63¾	62¾
Texas Inst	60¾	60¾
Texas Utilities	42¾	42¾
Textron	54¾	54¾
Time Warner	44¾	44¾
Times-Mirror	34¾	34¾
Timken	32¾	32¾
Torchmark	43¾	44¾
Toys R Us	40¾	40¾
Transamerica	56¾	56¾
Travelers Corp	33¾	33¾
Tribune	59	58¾
Tyco Labs	47¾	48¾
UAL Corp	150¾	150¾
UST Inc	26¾	26¾
USX Marathon	17¾	17¾
Unicmar NV	116¾	115¾
Union Camp	46¾	47
Union Carbide	21¾	21¾
Unimi Pacific	61¾	61¾
Unisys Corp	11¾	11¾
USAIR Group	13¾	13¾
USPRG Corp	13¾	12¾
US Life	38¾	38¾
US West	46¾	46¾
United Tech	62¾	62¾
Unocal Corp	28¾	29¾
Upjohn	29¾	29¾
VF Corp	44¾	44¾
WMX Tech	27¾	27
Wal-Mart Stores	27¾	27¾
Warner-Lambert	64¾	63¾
Wells Fargo	120¾	121¼
Westinghouse El	13¾	14¾
Weyerhaeuser	43¾	42¾
Whirlpool	62¾	62
Whittman	16¾	16¾
Winn Dixie	54¾	54¾
Woolworth	23¾	23¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	43¾	43¾
Xerox	87¾	89¾

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $	1.4945 (-0.0002)
German mark	2.5369 (-0.0116)
Exchange index	81.5 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3261.3 (-10.3)
Dow Jones	3731.45 (+1.67)*
Nikkei Avg	17257.43 (+195.52)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5½%
3-month Interbank	5⅝-5¼%
US Federal Funds	2¾%
3-month Treas Bills	3.05-3.04%*
Long Bond	6.17%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	1.4950*	£:$	1.4946
$:DM	1.6990*	£:DM	2.5378
$:SWfr	1.4565*	£:SWfr	2.1806
$:Fr	5.8190*	£:Fr	8.6972
$:Yen	109.15*	£:Yen	163.13
£:SDR	1.0757	£:ECU	1.3163

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 382.30 PM 382.30
Close 382.20-382.70
New York:
Comex 382.25-382.75*

OIL

Brent Crude..... $13.80 per bbl (Jan)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI..141.8 Oct (1.4%) Jan 1987=100

* Denotes midday trading price

Profits slide at Triplex

PRE-TAX profits at Triplex Lloyd, the West Midlands industrial and engineering group, slid 56 per cent to £1.45 million in the half-year to September 30, as hefty losses in its engineering division took their toll.

The main loss was £2.3 million by E D Hinchliffe, the curtain-walling operation, which is one of the businesses likely to be included eventually in the group's non-core divestment programme. John Foley, managing director, said trading losses in the second half should not exceed £800,000, including redundancy costs.

Reduced demand hit the group's car-parts business, with profits down 15 per cent. But Mr Foley is cautiously optimistic on prospects for the automotive division and said orders were picking up.

Turnover edged up to £81.4 million (£81.1 million). Earnings plunged to 1.6p (4.6p) a share, but the interim dividend is being maintained at 2.5p. Triplex shares fell 14p to 130p.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		FALLS:	
CRH	340p (+10p)	Lloyds	621p (-20p)
Carlton Comm	879p (+16p)	Abbey Nti	466p (-15p)
Euro Disney	403p (+13p)	Burmah Castrol	799p (-16p)
Sappi	376p (+17p)	BAT	523p (-11p)
Granada	496p (+12p)	Glaxo	682p (-15p)

Hang Seng tops 10,000

CHAMPAGNE flowed yesterday when Hong Kong share prices soared above the 10,000-point level. The Hang Seng index surged by 2.38 per cent as investors ignored doubts about Sino-British political disputes and poured record billions of dollars into local equities.

The index closed at 10,228.11, up 237.85 points, for its fourth consecutive record high. Turnover was HK$11.942 billion (£1.03 billion) — the highest single-day turnover ever, up from the previous day's HK$9.313 billion.

Sharp rises in Hong Kong shares in London overnight heralded frenzied buying as the market opened, with the index soaring nearly 200 points to go above 10,000 within five minutes. The key stock gauge gained 220.27 points to close morning trading at a record 10,210.53.



The HKSE's Charles Lee, right, and Keith Lam, with Zhu Li of China's Securities Commission

Despite profit-taking in the afternoon, the index still set its 40th record close of the year, with brokers predicting it would reach 12,000 points by the end of the year. The key stock index has risen almost 10 per cent since last Friday, when it closed at 9,294.35. The December futures market also set a record to close at a 134-point premium.

Brokers said the rise was due to a continuous influx of overseas funds, mainly from America, Japan and Europe. Hong Kong was the cheapest market in the Asia-Pacific region and investors were speculating on continued strong economic growth in China.

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust LLoyds Insce (100)	93	...
Abtrust Lloyds Wrts	40	...
Amicable Smlr Ent (100)	101	...
Angerstein (100)	97	...
Azlan (230)	257	...
Badgerline (115)	107	-2
Biotrace Intl (130)	151	-2
CLM Insce (100)	103	...
Canadian Pizza (200)	184	...
Celltech (250)	217½	-12
Cleveland Trust (100)	112	...
DFS Furniture (260)	298	-6
Delian Lloyds Inv Tst (100)	98	...
Emerald Energy (1)	1¾	...
Fenchurch (180)	173	-2
Finsbury U/writing Inv	108	...
For & Col Emerg Mkts Wts	64	+1
For & Col Smaller (100)	100½	...
Gartmore (168)	184	...
Govett High Inc (100)	106	...
HCG Lloyds Inv Tst (100)	102	...
Harmony Leisure Wrrts	4½	...
Hozelock (250)	249	-6
Johnson Fry Utils (100)	111	+3
Johnson Fry 0 Pf (100)	104	- ½
Lilliput (135)	121	...
Litho Supplies (190)	209	-1
London Insfnce Mkt (100)	111	+1
Masthead Instc (100)	107	+1
Milligate (40)	42	+1
Morgan Grnfl Eqty C (100)	103	...
NM Smllr Aust (100)	100	...
NM Smllr Wrrts	45	...
New London Capital (100)	96	...
On Demand Info (78)	110	-1
Pilot Inv C (100)	100	...
Premium Trust	94	...
Premium U/writing	107	...
Royal Doulton	221	+3
Ruberoid (150)	163	-1
Syndicate Cap (100)	96	...
Syndicate Cap Wts	37	...
Telspec (160)	183	+2
Throgmrtn Pr Inc (100)	102	...
Towry Law (190)	199	+2
Ugland Intl	105	+2
Wigmore Property Inv (100)	98	+1
Wigmore Property Wrts	42	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Greycoat n/p (12½)	3½ ...
Maddox n/p (1)	¼ - ⅛
NFC n/p (195)	34 ...
Raglan n/p (100)	2½ - ½
Rhino n/p (44)	17 +3
Siebe n/p (485)	64 ...
Wyevale Garden n/p (152)	19 ...

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Aegon House, Lessck Square, London E24 9XS 071 538 8800

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Series Mngd Fd	438.10	463.70	+ 2.80	...
Series Equity	556.10	588.50	+ 3.00	...
Series Prop Fd	422.90	447.60	+ 1.20	...
Series Fixed Int	294.60	354.10	+ 0.91	...
Series Money Fd	243.60	257.80	+ 0.10	...
Series Overs Fd	341.00	360.90	+ 2.00	...

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE
2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD 0800 018575

Life Funds				
Squirrel	17.49	18.42	+ 0.03	...
Bear	19.81	20.86	+ 0.17	...
Owl	19.95	21.01	+ 0.17	...
Bull	17.95	18.93	+ 0.18	...
Stag	18.80	19.79	+ 0.13	...
Gilt Edged	19.46	19.46	+ 0.15	...
Deposit	19.39	19.39	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	23.41	24.65	+ 0.03	...
Bear	26.76	28.17	+ 0.24	...
Owl	26.92	28.34	+ 0.26	...
Bull	22.99	24.21	+ 0.22	...
Stag	23.32	24.55	+ 0.19	...
Gilt Edged	24.03	24.03	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	19.60	19.60	+ 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	582.13	582.14	+ 2.92	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	343.89	361.99	+ 0.33	...
N Amer Equity	295.76	311.33	+ 2.18	...
Far East Equity	422.35	444.58	+ 2.22	...
Fixed	308.05	321.11	+ 2.55	...
Cash Deposit	198.36	208.81	+ 0.18	...
Property	147.71	155.49	+ 2.81	...
Special Opp	347.44	365.73	+ 0.55	...
Managed	306.83	322.98	+ 2.29	...
Index-Linked Fd	197.68	208.09	+ 0.75	...

ABBEY LIFE
Elizabethaven Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373

Property Fd Inc	260.10	273.80	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	675.10	710.20	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fd Inc	172.20	181.30	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc	223.50	235.30	+ 2.30	...
Selective Fd	483.70	509.20	+ 2.70	...
Money Fd	194.80	205.00	+ 0.90	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	370.20	389.70	+ 0.50	...
Equity Ser 4	214.10	225.40	+ 1.70	...
Man Ser 4	661.30	696.20	+ 7.60	...
Conv Ser 4	319.10	335.90	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	318.70	335.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	357.80	376.70	+ 4.00	...
American Ser 4	500.40	527.30	+ 4.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	655.60	690.20	+ 3.80	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	319.20	226.70	+ 2.50	...
Japan Ser 4	332.20	349.70	+ 2.00	...

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darley Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311

Equity Fd Acc	1542.6	1623.8	+ 5.80	...
European Fd Acc	355.40	374.09	+11.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	927.40	989.30	+ 0.30	...
Gtd Money Acc	321.60	340.80	+ 0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	582.20	612.80	+ 7.40	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	333.00	350.50	+ 3.30	...
Japan Fund	272.00	286.30	+ 4.20	...
N American Acc	260.80	277.60	+ 2.80	...
Prop Fd Acc	396.50	417.30	+ 1.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1027.4	1092.0	+10.90	...

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514544

Fxd Int Dep Acc	360.70	379.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1392.7	1466.0	+17.70	...
Property Acc	907.40	534.20	+ 0.30	...
Fxr East Acc	418.40	440.40	+ 8.60	...
Managed Capital	542.10	570.70	+ 6.80	...
-do- Acc	1079.5	1136.4	+13.60	...
Overseas Acc	927.50	976.40	+10.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	498.10	524.40	+ 2.10	...
Amer Equity Acc	739.10	778.00	- 1.70	...
Amer Man Acc	315.20	331.80	- 1.10	...
Amer Prop Acc	114.10	120.20	- 1.60	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 464463

Balanced Ser 5	146.50	154.20	+ 0.80	...
Balced Ser 5	691.50	727.80	+ 5.30	...
Opportunity Ser 5	158.30	166.60	+ 1.90	...
Distribution Ser 5	107.50	113.10	+ 1.30	...
UK Equities Ser 5	958.00	1005.2	+ 4.50	...
Higher Inc Ser 5	1038.8	1093.1	+15.20	...
North Amer Ser 5	439.10	462.20	- 4.00	...
Far East Ser 5	542.00	570.50	+ 9.00	...
Europe Ser 5	354.10	372.70	+10.90	...
Intnl Ser 5	550.00	578.90	+ 3.30	...
Property Ser 5	488.10	505.30	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	426.40	448.80	+ 4.40	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec 55	197.20	107.00	+ 1.50	...
Guard Dep Ser 5	287.60	302.70	+ 0.30	...

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9TB 081 534 5944

Equity Acc	826.20	869.70	+ 5.10	...
-do- Initial	565.30	595.00	+ 3.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	405.00	423.50	+ 4.30	...
-do- Initial	277.40	292.10	+ 2.90	...
International Acc	791.70	413.40	+ 3.70	...
-do- Initial	368.60	382.80	+ 3.90	...
Managed Acc	512.60	539.60	+ 4.40	...
-do- Initial	352.70	371.30	+ 3.00	...
Money Acc	282.10	297.00	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	257.30	270.90	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	175.50	184.80	+ 0.10	...
American Acc	393.00	397.90	+ 1.10	...
Australia Acc	306.10	217.00	+ 2.70	...
Financial Acc	231.80	245.30	+ 3.00	...
500 Accum	424.70	447.10	+ 1.30	...
Japan Gen Acc	325.10	342.30	+ 2.10	...
Income Acc	514.30	541.40	+ 4.00	...
Leisure Acc	218.80	230.40	+ 0.20	...
Special Sits Acc	228.30	240.40	+ 1.20	...
Unit Tech Acc	180.10	189.60	+ 2.90	...

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Megaclose House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000

The Managed Fd	793.58	793.58	+ 5.96	...
Income Fund	783.29	792.94	+ 5.31	...
Extra Income	688.51	722.65	+ 5.28	...
Worldwide Gth	497.28	522.46	+ 0.91	...
Balanced Fund	653.07	687.45	+ 4.94	...
Smllr Cos Recov	628.47	661.55	- 1.76	...
N Amer & Genrl	377.59	397.47	+ 0.75	...
Pacific Basin	470.74	495.52	+14.00	...
Germnan Growth	231.98	244.19	+ 3.98	...
Japan Growth	162.84	171.42	+ 3.25	...
The UK Gth Fd	205.27	216.08	+ 2.29	...
Cnnl Euro Gth	124.72	131.29	+ 3.59	...
Property Fund	367.43	386.77	+ 1.47	...
Fixed Interest	326.44	343.63	+ 1.28	...
Cash Fund	274.84	289.31	+ 0.18	...
Managed Inv	481.90	507.27	+ 3.75	...
Nth Amer Recov	249.99	263.15	+ 2.67	



PENSIONS A-Z 28

How to choose the best scheme for you

WEEKEND MONEY

WRONG NUMBER 27

The rising cost of insuring mobile phones



Christmas presents with a future

Baby bonds, teddy bears, football club shares and wine are all investments with potential. Jill Insley and Rose Wild report on wise buys for good gifts

It may not be as exciting as the Sega Megadrive, but buying your child an investment for Christmas may offer more lasting benefits. Savings products are a particularly good way for grandparents to give to young grandchildren who seem to have every toy imaginable. They might not appreciate the investment at the time, but a small sum can produce a useful nestegg by the time they reach maturity.

The National Savings Children's Bonus Bond allows up to £1,000 to be invested on a child's behalf for a term of five years. The sum invested will earn tax-free interest at the rate prevailing when the bond is taken out — currently 7.85 per cent a year. A £1,000 investment today would produce £1,459 in five years' time.

Unlike some National Savings products for children, the Children's Bonus Bond allows parents to invest on their own children's behalf. If the bond is encashed in its first year, no interest is earned. If it is encashed during the remaining four years, the yield is reduced to 5 per cent.

Baby bonds, friendly societies' savings plans for people under 18, also roll up gains tax free. Most societies offer the option to invest monthly, annually or in a lump sum, although Anthony Fraser, of London-based IFA Fraser Marr Financial Services, advises against the lump sum method for the time being.

Mr Fraser says that the lump sum is used to buy an annuity that feeds annual premiums to the baby bonds. Because of low interest rates, an annuity buys a lower annual payment today than a few years ago. "I wouldn't want to lock into today's interest rates for the next 10 years," he says. "I would normally have the money put on deposit and feed in the premiums annually."

Mr Fraser recommends the Tunbridge Wells Friendly Society, saying: "They are the only leading friendly society with a with-profits fund and their returns have been extremely good."

Children are allowed to invest up to £18 a month or £200 annually, for a minimum of 10 years.

A building society account lets any number of relatives contribute. To ensure that the child does not pay unnecessary tax, the person opening the account should complete Inland Revenue form R85, allowing the society to pay interest without deducting tax.

Britannia Building Society's Brighter Savers account pays 3.4 per cent, while the Skipton Building Society Young Sovereigns account offers a competitive 6.5 per cent growth, plus a 2 per cent bonus if no withdrawals are made before December 1, 1994.

National Savings Premium Bonds offer those liking more of a gamble a chance of a tax-free monthly prize of £250,000. The minimum purchase is £100. Bonds earn nothing unless chosen by Ernie, the Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment. There are five monthly prizes of £10,000, 25 of £5,000 and 180,000 of between £50 and £1,000, and weekly prizes of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000.

For parents of soccer-mad offspring, a few shares in the child's favourite club may be the answer. Only Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall are quoted on the stock market. Shares in privately-owned clubs are usually tightly held, but it may be possible to find some for sale by approaching the club.

Given the dismal financial performance of many football clubs, the shares are best seen as a flutter, but they would allow recipients to attend shareholder meetings, cast votes on club decisions and — perhaps best of all — shout at the directors.



Father Christmas, seen here by Norman Rockwell, may be on his mettle to give gifts of real value this year

Do's and don'ts of borrowing

Responsible credit providers should always ensure that consumers do not take on more debt than they can reasonably afford (Robert Miller writes). This is particularly relevant at Christmas when pressure to borrow to finance the festive season is so much greater. For their part, borrowers must make sure that whatever debt they do take on over Christmas does not override any existing monthly payments they are committed to.

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and the Consumers' Association are consumer groups in the front line of debt counselling. Terry Walker and Nick Pearson of Nacab and Jean Eaglesham of the Consumers' Association offer the following advice:

☐ Do check out the interest rate as defined by the annual percentage rate (APR).
☐ Do remember that APRs do not include the cost of credit insurance taken out to cover a situation such as illness or redundancy.
☐ Don't use a secured loan for household appliances.
☐ Do consider carefully the fact that most storecards charge APRs of 30 per cent or higher.
☐ Do use an interest-free £100 overdraft facility first if your bank offers it.
☐ Don't be tempted into borrowing money from any other source than a respectable finance house or bank or building society.
☐ Do find out how long the term of the loan is and how loans of a similar size elsewhere compare.
☐ Do try to avoid overdrafts that levy a charge or arrangement fee as well as interest. And do not go overdrawn above the agreed limit without letting the bank know first.
☐ Do check whether the credit card with which you want to finance spending charges interest from the statement date or the transaction date.

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild

One in a million chance to own history

Mid shoulder and low shoulder sound more like descriptions of this season's frocks than a guide to wine buying. In fact, they define the size of the gap between cork and wine which, says Christie's the auctioneer, can affect quality, particularly in clarets.

This Thursday at King Street, London, Christie's is offering fine and rare wines, some with sound investment potential. A case of 1985 Château Lafite Pauillac, 1er cru classé, is estimated at £320-420 and one of Château Palmer 1985 Cantenac (Margaux) at £190-260. Paul Bowker of Christie's says: "Vintage port has been sluggish lately, but the Fonseca 1985 (£130-160 per case) is going to be marvellous."

For those of a certain age, Honor Blackman's "kinky" black leather boots, worn in *The Avengers*, will be offered at Christie's, South Kensington, on Friday for an estimated £600-800. A collection of letters from Greta Garbo to her best friend in Sweden — *Chatterley's Lover*, so most are worth very little. On Monday, however, Sotheby's hopes to raise £1,500-2,000 for the copy used by Mr Justice Byrne, the judge presiding over the obscenity trial. As



Sotheby's expects to raise £1,500-2,000 for this annotated copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*

"You have no idea how it hurts to be as confused and unhappy as I am. I don't want to see anyone" — will be auctioned for £15,000-20,000 at Sotheby's on Monday.

Penguin Books printed a million copies of *Lady* prosecuting counsel asked the jury: "Is it a book you would wish your wife or your servants to read?" the judge was referring to an annotated copy, with the controversial passages marked for him by Lady Byrne.

Christie's eighth annual "Trains Galore" sale on Monday 20th will include a Bassett-Lowke Flying Scotsman at £700-800.

Sotheby's of Billingshurst have bears, dolls and pedal cars on Monday 20th. Phillips of Bayswater have a Christmas toy sale on Tuesday 21, including tinplate and lead soldiers, worth £20-500. On Wednesday, possibly the most numinous of Christmas presents goes under the hammer at Sotheby's for an estimated £6,000-£8,000. A miniature silver carriage clock engraved "A.N. From Mama and Papa 5th June 1910", it is believed to have been a ninth birthday present to the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Sotheby's 071 493 8080; Christie's 071 839 9060; Phillip's 071 629 6602.

Pension off the cowboys

No one (except perhaps the regulators) yet knows which companies were guilty of persuading up to 500,000 people to transfer out of perfectly good company pension schemes and into personal pensions, which almost certainly offer inferior benefits.

A worrying preliminary hint from the Securities and Investments Board, which is now investigating, is that some of the large banks and building societies that it directly regulates could have been among the worst offenders.

High street banks and building societies are, unfortunately, in a powerful position to seize on unsuspecting customers as they queue to make deposits or withdrawals. Plausible-looking young men and women approach and suggest setting up a meeting to discuss pension planning. Customers find themselves making an appointment to see a salesman who is of course a tied agent of the bank's own life assurance arm and can sell only a bank's (often indifferent) policies.

It is no secret that banks and building societies, trading on the fact that they are household names, have been pushing into selling life assurance and pensions in a big way. Banks in particular have been losing money on their traditional business and need to develop new income sources. Their sales agents are put under pressure with high targets. Many are inadequately trained, particularly in such a complex area.

Salesmen are inclined to use magic words like "tax-free", as in "tax-free lump sum", declining to add, even if they know, that everyone in a company scheme also has the right to take part of their pension in a tax-free lump sum. They may also stress that the Government will pay some of the contribution in the form of tax relief (ignoring the vitally important point that in a company scheme, the employer will contribute as well as the employee). They can then persuade the customer either to opt out of their existing company scheme or take a transfer value from a pension they have built up in a previous company and put it into a personal pension. All signed and sealed, bringing in a nice commission.

COMMENT



SARA McCONNELL
Personal finance correspondent

Of course banks and building societies will not be the only offenders. Life company agents also have high sales targets. Some independent financial advisers have also succumbed to the temptation to earn extra money by giving bad advice. But again and again, large, respected institutions turn out to be involved in mis-selling. If the public cannot trust them, who can it trust?

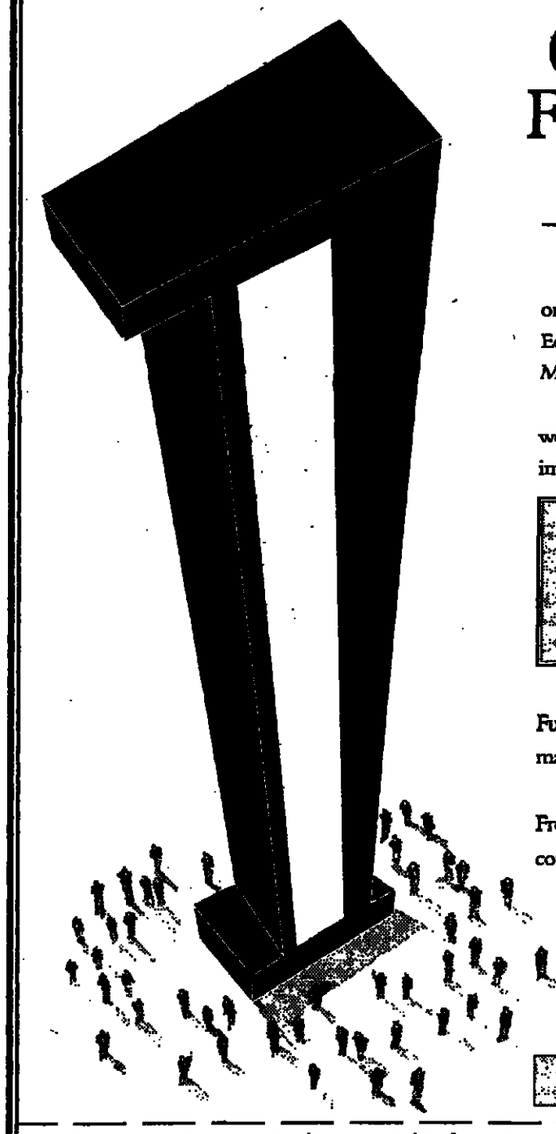
The regulators are finally addressing a problem they have known about for 18 months. It will be this time next year before payouts start in earnest. The SIB must now act decisively to make sure all the companies guilty of mis-selling pay up without demur. **Reports, pages 28,29**

Unfriendly

And talking of compensation ... another long-established institution, the Lancashire & Yorkshire friendly society, has been ordered by the High Court to pay compensation totalling £8.3 million to more than half of its 67,000 members after its Capital Secure Fund invested in property in 1989.

This happened although many of the policies investing in the fund were specifically endorsed to exclude property from the portfolio. The fund was advertised as investing in cash and gilts only. The property investment was subsequently written off at a £4.3 million loss. In an unprecedented move this summer, the society imposed a levy of 12 per cent on all its policyholders, even those not affected, to raise £10.1 million to cover possible compensation costs. The surplus will now be paid back to members.

What a mess! The society has put members through more than a year of worry. People do not buy friendly society investments to take risks, but to build up a nest egg. If policies are endorsed to exclude certain investments, they have a right to expect the society will respect this. Even though the society was not breaking its own rules or friendly society rules by investing in property, the management at the time exhibited gross carelessness in not checking whether policies were endorsed.



One UK Equity Fund that towers above the rest.

The Newton Income Fund is the number one unit trust for performance out of all UK Equity Funds over 7 years and since launch in *May 1985.**

The table below shows how your money would have grown, after all charges, had you invested £1,000 over each of these periods.*



You can either invest in the Newton Income Fund directly or through the Newton PEP to maximise the tax advantages available.

For full details, please call Melanie Hills on Freephone 0500 550 000 at any time, return the coupon below, or fax (071) 332 9033.

Remember that past performance is no guarantee of future performance. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested.

Call Free 0500 550 000

To: Melanie Hills, Newton Fund Managers Ltd, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR. Please send me details of:
☐ Newton PEPs: ☐ Newton Unit Trusts: ☐ Regular Savings Options: ☐ Portfolio Management Services.

NAME ADDRESS

POSTCODE

T 931211

NEWTON

Newton Fund Managers Limited is a member of IMRO, LAUTRO and AUTIF. *Source: Micropal. Figures to 1 December 1993, offer to bid, net income reinvested.

Mortgage rate cuts spell gloom for savers

Investors can expect no respite in the reduction of returns, says **Liz Dolan**

Tumbling mortgage rates in the wake of recent base-rate cuts presage even lower returns for the country's long-suffering savers. For some, the bad news has already begun to emerge.

Nationwide, one of the first building societies to cut mortgage rates after last month's base-rate reduction, has since reduced interest payable on virtually all its savings accounts. There has been no obvious attempt to soften the blow for investors. Mortgage and savings rates have been cut by the full 0.5 per cent.

In addition, the minimum opening balance on Nationwide's basic CashBuilder instant-access account, has been increased from £1 to £100. The only products to escape the rate-cutter's knife are the postal account, InvestDirect, the fixed-growth bond and the overseas accounts.

National & Provincial appears to have decided to give priority to mortgage customers at the expense of savers. It has slashed its guaranteed Tessa rate by 0.5 per cent to 6.75 per cent, despite the fact that its mortgage rate has fallen by only 0.35 per cent to 7.64 per cent. The reduction in the mortgage rate has been made in two stages over the past fortnight as the society reacted to the mood of the market. The gross rates on all other N&P savings accounts have been reduced by up to 0.4 per cent.

Barclays says it has tried to soften the blow to savers by withholding the full 0.5 per cent reduction from mortgage customers. The bank has cut rates for both savers and home buyers by 0.25 per cent. Barclays was one of the few institutions to announce changes to both sets of rates at the same time. Most waited until this week to reduce mortgage rates, and are not expected to announce adjustments to investment rates until next week at the earliest.

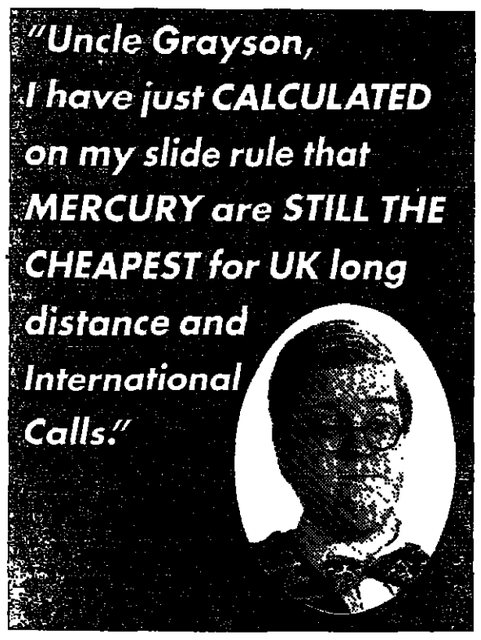
The Halifax announced a 0.35 per cent cut in its variable rate to 7.64 per cent on Monday, effective from January 1 for existing borrowers. Savers are promised "a pattern of rates for investors which puts fairness at its core", to be announced "shortly".

In addition, the society has reduced the annual percentage rate on unsecured personal loans by 2 per cent, and by 1 per cent on secured loans. At the same time, a £10 administration fee on unsecured loans has been discontinued.

Also this week, Bradford & Bingley, the Leeds, and Midland Bank all announced a 0.25 per cent reduction in their variable rate to 7.74 per cent, and both the Cheltenham & Gloucester and Alliance & Leicester announced a 0.35 per cent cut to 7.64 per cent. The TSB's rate is now 7.64 per cent, down from 7.99 per cent.

The variable rate at BNP Mortgages fell from 7.85 per cent to 7.99 per cent, effective from January 4 for new borrowers. John Schuster, marketing manager, says: "Not having to worry about savers means we can be even more competitive than the building societies."

Rate cuts have also sparked a further round of fixed-rate mortgage offers. N&P's new series includes a three-year fix at 6.26 per cent for customers with a 25 per cent deposit. New fixed deals from the Leeds include a five-year fix at 7.25 per cent, a three-year fix at 5.99 per cent (80 per cent maximum loan) or 6.25 per cent (95 per cent loans).



BUILDING SOCIETY INVESTORS!
To find the best rates and the best alternatives send for our FREE brochure, available now from:-
THE BUILDING SOCIETY SHOP,
98-100 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HD. (0602 472595)
Willis Owen t/a The Building Society Shop are FIMBRA members. Finalex does not regulate Building Society investments
FIMBRA
Please send a copy of your brochure to:
Name
Address
..... Postcode..... TT 11/12

Accumulus Hallam II
South Eastern Recovery IV
Highly rated BES investments available.
Early application recommended.
Call 071 734 4440 or Fax 071 734 4222
for a prospectus.
Terrace Hill Capital Limited
31 Sackville Street, London W1X 1DB
A Member of the Securities and Futures Authority
This advertisement has been issued by Terrace Hill Capital Limited. This advertisement does not form any part of any offer of any security. Any Application should be made on the basis of the information contained only on the terms and conditions of the prospectus. Potential investors are advised to take independent financial advice concerning BES investments. The relief from the rates of taxes referred to in the prospectus are those which currently apply and are dependant upon the circumstances of the tax payer. Investors should be aware that the levels and bases of taxation and reliefs available can change. Investment in unquoted companies carries a higher degree of risk than investment in quoted companies. Shares are not traded on a recognised exchange and it may therefore be difficult to sell them and to obtain reliable information as to their current value. The value of the investment may fluctuate and the investor may not get back the amount of the original investment.

FORD is following Vauxhall into the UK credit card market. It is linking up with Barclaycard to launch a special Ford-branded Barclaycard Visa or Mastercard on April 1. The £10 annual fee has been waived for the first year. Like Barclaycard, the new joint card will charge 21.9 per cent APR. Five per cent of the value of each transaction made using this card will translate into points to earn discounts of up to £600 on a new Ford car. From January, existing Barclaycard customers will also be able to earn Ford discounts, using points already amassed on their cards under the Profiles system. Barclaycard estimates that 1.62 million of its 3 million customers have sufficient points to claim a cash rebate. Some 250,000 have enough for the full £600. Vauxhall, which launched a similar card in October, rushed out a statement immediately after the Ford launch, pointing out that its card was fee-free and the APR was only 19.9 per cent.

☐ Members of private medical insurance schemes may find themselves having to pay closer attention to the charges for their treatment if the current charging structure is ruled to be against the public interest. The delayed Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on private medical services was finally sent to Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, on Tuesday. The MMC was due to complete its inquiry within 12 months and to report in September but the DTI had agreed to extend its deadline for the report.

Bupa and PPP, the UK's two largest private health insurance providers, also publish guidelines. The majority of the UK's 25 private medical insurance companies use the BMA guidelines.

It is believed that the MMC has recommended that the BMA guidelines be abolished.

If this is the case, says Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, which uses the BMA guidelines, "consumers will have to have their wits about them as every private health provider will be obliged to produce their own schedules".

☐ Skipton Building Society's new instant-access High Street account pays 5.06 per cent interest. But all transactions must be by cheque and the minimum withdrawal is £500. The initial investment must be at least £2,000, and the maximum balance is £10,000, excluding interest.

☐ For the first time, the Co-operative Bank's Armchair Banking service will be open from 9am to 5pm throughout the Christmas holiday, including December 25. A routine information line, which uses a computerised voice, is available 24 hours a day.

☐ Unit trust group Martin Currie is offering a 1 per cent discount to people who invest in its emerging markets fund before January 31. The fund is invested in 120 stocks in 25 countries. The offer price is around 119p.

☐ The Royal Bank of Scotland has cut the interest rate on its Access, Visa and affinity credit cards by 0.1 of a percentage point. The new rate of 1.59 per cent per month, in effect from January 1, is equal to 22 per cent APR. RBoS's MasterCard, launched last month with the promise that no annual fee will ever be charged, attracts interest of 1.25 per cent a month (16 per cent APR).

Saving money and time with a house-building kit

Margaret Dibben explains how an enthusiast will spend Christmas in a bungalow he built in six weeks

MARC ASPLAND



The Cookes found few problems with their kit-built bungalow

Howard and Lynda Cooke and their three sons are spending Christmas in a timber-frame bungalow in Royston, Essex, where three months ago there was only a plot of land. They had decided that the only way they could afford a larger home was to build it themselves — and it went up in six weeks.

Mr Cooke explains: "We had a three-bedroomed semi-detached house in south Cambridgeshire, but with three growing boys we were looking for that next move to a four-bedroomed detached house. We wanted to stay in the area because we didn't want to disrupt our children's schooling, but when we went looking we couldn't find anything within our price range."

Building their own home was a difficult decision to take. "The boys are quite a handful and my wife works part-time," Mr Cooke says. But with the equity in their existing house, for which they already had a buyer, they calculated that they could afford to buy land and build for a total cost of £90,000 to £93,000.

They found a plot only 1½ miles away and contacted a kit manufacturer of timber-frame houses. The Cookes chose not to do the work themselves. Mr Cooke explains: "I acted as a site agent and subcontracted most of the work to other people. At weekends I was able to do the tidying up and filling-in jobs."

The building was exceptionally fast. The foundations went in during the first two weeks of August, the kit was delivered on August 27 and the bungalow was completed 33 days later. On October 2 they moved in. About 30,000 people build their own home each year, and the numbers are increasing. It is possible to save around 40 per cent on the cost of home ownership and more if the owner does most of the labouring. A basic house kit from a builder specialising in self-build homes will cost between £25,0000 and £50,000. Fixtures and fittings can cost another £50,000 to £100,000, and there is the price of the land. This has become far more affordable as land prices have collapsed during the recession. A few years ago, 40 per cent of the total cost might have gone on buying the land, now it is likely to be nearer 25 per cent.

Mr Cooke found a third of an acre with planning permission for two bungalows for sale at £90,000, but he discovered the planning consent had expired two years earlier. He says: "I only wanted one plot so I thought I would see what happened if I offered £40,000 for both pieces of land without planning approval. I got them for £44,000." Obtaining planning consent for one was not a problem..

Finding a mortgage is not always easy. Many banks and building societies will not lend on self-build projects; some will lend money only for the cost of building; others, if they do lend on the land as well, will not grant 100 per cent loans.

Nationwide Building Society, which provided the Cooke's mortgage, will lend on both, with a ceiling of 75 per cent of the cost of the land. However, no special mortgage deals are available and the standard mortgage rate of 7.99 per cent applies. Before asking for a mortgage you need planning consent, architect's plans, costings for the project and a timetable. The money is released in several tranches as various key stages of building are completed. If it becomes apparent that the cost is overrunning the budget, the society will consider requests for more money.

Mr Cooke had a problem early on: "While we were waiting for the timber frame to be constructed, the timber company required a 20 per cent deposit, about £4,000, which I did not have. I asked the Nationwide to release £8,000 out of the £93,000 immediately, which they did although it was not due until the foundations had been completed."

The Cookes now have a home which cost £96,000 altogether, but which has just been valued at £155,000.

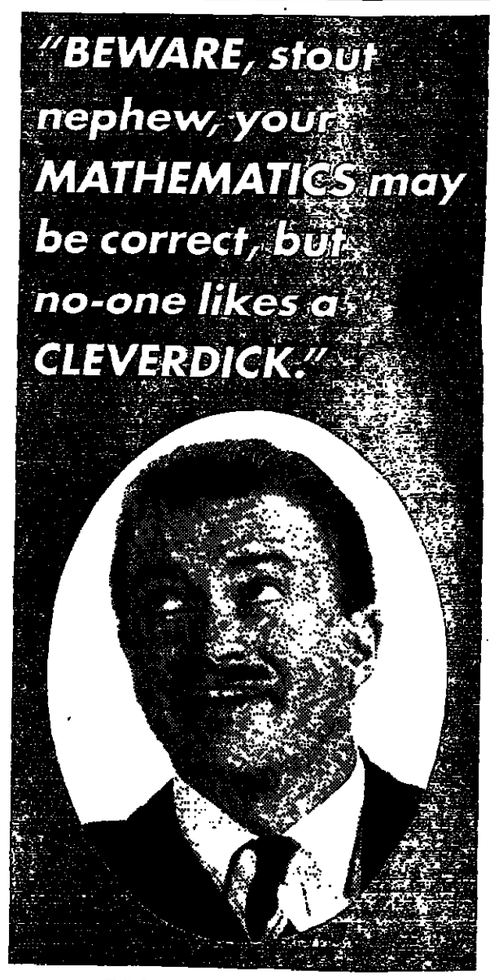
PROFIT *from some of the* WORLD'S most industrious workforces for just £25 a month with GOVETT *Oriental* Investment Trust.

There are major investment opportunities across the whole Asia Pacific region, from Singapore to Shanghai, Tokyo to Jakarta. But which sectors and economies are the most dynamic? Which companies offer the best prospects for growth? Govett Oriental Investment Trust PLC has been seeking out shares in successful sectors and companies in the region for many years, and current investment has stretched into new markets such as India and Pakistan. So, if you are looking for a long-term home for your savings in some of the world's most exciting stockmarkets, then you should consider Govett Oriental Investment Trust PLC. You can start with just £25 a month, or a minimum lump sum of £250, via the John Govett Investment Trust Savings Scheme. Our brochure gives you the complete picture. Send for it now with the coupon below. Or call us on 071 378 7979. Some of the world's most industrious workforces are waiting to work for you.

To: Marketing Dept., John Govett & Co. Limited, Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. Telephone 071 378 7979.
Please send me details of Govett Oriental Investment Trust PLC and the John Govett Investment Trust Savings Scheme.
Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____ Day Tel. No. _____ TT1112
Issued by John Govett & Co. Limited, a member of IMRO.
Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of shares and income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they invest.
GOVETT ORIENTAL INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?
WE BUY WITH PROFITS ENDOWMENTS AND WHOLE LIFE POLICIES AT SUBSTANTIAL PREMIUMS ABOVE SURRENDER VALUE. THE POLICY MUST HAVE BEEN IN FORCE FOR AT LEAST 7 YEARS. THERE ARE NO HIDDEN FEES.
30% Above Surrender Value Often Paid
Telephone: 081 207 1666 Fax: 081 207 4950
1 Insurance Company
2 Basic Sum Assured
3 Start Date of Policy
4 Maturity Date of Policy
5 Gross Monthly Premium
6 Total Bonus Attaching
7 Surrender Value
FOR AN IMMEDIATE QUOTE TELEPHONE, FAX OR RETURN THE COUPON WITH THE INFORMATION INDICATED.
NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
ADDRESS
.....
.....
.....POSTCODE.....
TELEPHONE NO:
SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC FIMBRA
T11/12
SEC House, 49 Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 4RZ



FreeCall 0500 500 400 or fill in the coupon
Mercury offer unsurpassed savings on long distance and international calls (compared to current BT basic prices before any promotions or discounts are applied).
Please send me a free brochure describing the benefits of Mercury's Residential Service. Post to Mercury Communications Ltd, Sales Enquiries, FREEPOST, PO BOX 49, BIRMINGHAM B1 1TE.
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)
Address
Postcode Tel (STD Code) Number
My last quarterly phone bill came to roughly £
A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY
TIMA15
Mercury

Higher numbers for mobile phone cover

Robert Miller says increasing claims for loss and damage are inevitably leading to a rise in insurance costs

Rivals British Telecom and Mercury are moving into top gear for the expected pre-Christmas rush of mobile telephone sales. But there is mounting concern within the insurance industry at the rising costs of meeting claims for loss and accidental damage, not just for mobile phones but for computers and allied equipment as well.

As consumers are well aware, higher claims costs inevitably lead to higher premiums — witness household and motor insurance — and much tighter underwriting criteria. So tight have the risk parameters become that some insurers specifically exclude any computer or technical equipment used for work, under a household policy. On the other hand, home computers, unlikely to be lugged around in the same way as a lap-top computer, are covered provided that the insurer is informed of its existence.

Similarly, either a motor or household policy could cover the loss of a personal mobile phone. An increasing band of mobile phone users is accounted for by working partners who need to keep in contact with child-minders if they are going to be late, and women driving alone.

According to David Fairbairn, sales manager at Border Counties, a firm of insurance intermediaries, annual premiums for insuring computers have risen in the past few years from around £35 or £50 to £200 and even higher. The average annual premium for those of the estimated 1.6 million mobile phone users who do have cover is between £90 and £100.

For certain types of business where mobility is the key, and a portable computer and mobile phone are tools of the trade, Mr Fairbairn suggests: "Trade associations and professional bodies may be able to negotiate lower premiums by using the prospect of bulk business."

'More than 5,000 mobile phones are stolen every month and premiums have risen dramatically'

General Accident's spokesman Tony Kerfoot says: "Telephones designed for use in the car are excluded from home insurance policies as they are seen as an accessory to the car. Computers for personal use are covered under GA's home policy up to £3,000. However, we do not actively seek to cover computers used for business and we would not want to cover a portable computer if it was regularly used outside the home. We might do it for an existing policyholder with a good record but we would probably charge higher premiums."

Where the equipment is used for business purposes Mr Kerfoot says: "It might be serisible to look at a commercial business insurance policy. Under that we will cover such items within the UK, and while they are temporarily in transit, with a limit of 15 per cent of the full contents value."

Norwich Union will also cover portable office equipment as part of a commercial policy and charge a £250 theft excess. Theft from an unattended car is specifically excluded.

The increase in the theft of portable items such as phones and computers has become so alarming that the Federation of Communciation Services has taken steps to try to halt the trend. Els Humphreys-Davis, a federation spokeswoman, explains: "More than 5,000 mobile phones are being stolen every month and premiums in general have been rising dramatically. We are working with police on improved security measures."

As the larger insurers view the portable office equipment market with horror, specialist insurers have moved in. York based Entertainment & Leisure Insurance Services, for example, will insure a £500 car or pocket phone for annual premiums of £115 in big cities and £93 in rural areas. For a £1,000 computer the annual premium is £94. Another specialist, Kent-based LIS at Lloyd's, offers special low-cost deals for existing home contents policyholders as well as a Business Home policy.

In the case of mobile phones, replacement costs are not the only consideration. What about the phone bill run up by a talkative thief? Mercury and BT ask users to contact them immediately, after which they will not be responsible for any calls. Mercury will also offer insurance for a replacement and the cost of calls up to £1,000 for £9.95 a month.

Sadly, some safety precautions win no Brownie points from insurers. Samsonite's new £139 Esteemtronic briefcase must be one of the most secure. It has 11,000 combinations to choose from on a push button display system, an alarm and a timer. The insurer's view? General Accident's Mr Kerfoot says: "Briefcases can still be left unattended in cars or, simply, forgotten."



The portable office has changed many working lives but gives insurers headaches

Key points to get the best deal

With an ever increasing number of outlets selling mobile phones, picking the most suitable one has become even harder (Robert Miller writes).

As a reader, Dr Myer Goldman, wrote this week: "I just want a low-cost phone with a low-rate tariff for emergency use only... but I am met with a barrage of advertisements for a multiplicity of different tariffs. I feel like throwing up my hands in horror and saying to hell with it."

John Turner, marketing manager at BT mobile communications, sympathises: "There are now many service providers offering a multitude of options which can leave the first time buyer more than a little bemused. However, there are a few key criteria which should always be considered before you commit yourself to any one service provider." These include:

- ☐ Buy on the recommendation of friends and colleagues and choose a well-known brand.
- ☐ Ensure the phone comes with a free warranty, preferably for a year.
- ☐ Buy from an authorised dealer.
- ☐ Consider likely usage patterns to decide which cellular tariff is best suited.
- ☐ Check how call charges are made — 30-second increments are the most economical way of being charged.
- ☐ To check costs, buy a phone that has a call timer alert.

Help for trapped Abbey borrowers

ABBEY National and the Bank of Scotland are the latest lenders to introduce a scheme to help borrowers trapped in their homes with a mortgage higher than the value of their property (Sara McConnell writes).

Existing Abbey borrowers with good payment records will be able to transfer up to £25,000 of negative equity to a new home, borrowing up to 125 per cent of the purchase price or the valuation, whichever is lower. At least 5 per cent of the new loan must be used to reduce the negative equity. The existing property must be sold, and the mortgage redeemed at the same time as the new property is purchased.

The BoS scheme, offered by its Centrebank subsidiary, is not restricted to its own borrowers.

It uses the surrender value of existing life policies to cover the negative equity loan.



EXTRA INTEREST ACCOUNT
UP TO 7.10%
GROSS P.A.
RATES FIXED UNTIL 28th FEBRUARY 1994

Only the Coventry goes to such heights to give you better interest on your savings.

Invest in the Coventry's new Extra Interest Account and your savings can enjoy:

- Top rates of interest, fixed until 28th February 1994.
- £1,000 minimum investment
- No notice required
- Instant access with only 10 days' penalty charge*
- Interest payable annually or monthly

To enjoy a top rate of interest, plus instant access, talk to one of our Customer Services advisors, on weekdays between 9.00a.m. and 5.00p.m. on Coventry (0203) 252277, quoting reference TX11(E). Alternatively to open an account, either call into your local branch or fill in the coupon below.

RATES FIXED UNTIL 28th FEBRUARY 1994

	Annual Interest Gross p.a.	Net equiv.	Monthly Interest Gross p.a.	Net equiv.
£25,000+	7.10%	5.32%	6.85%	5.13%
£10,000+	6.80%	5.10%	6.60%	4.95%
£1,000+	6.50%	4.87%	6.30%	4.72%

To: Extra Interest Accounts Department, TX11(E)
Coventry Building Society, PO Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN.
I/We wish to invest £ in the Extra Interest A/C.
(Cheque enclosed payable to Coventry Building Society.)
Interest to be paid either: annually (each 31st March) ☐, or monthly income ☐. Please tick appropriate box.
Full name (1st applicant) (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
Date of Birth
Signature
Full name (2nd applicant) (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
Date of Birth
Signature
Address
Postcode Daytime phone No.

COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY
Economic House, PO Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN.

YOU CAN COUNT ON THE COVENTRY

Coventry Building Society is one of the country's top 20 building societies. The Society, which is authorised by the Building Societies Commission, has assets approaching £2,800 million, capital and reserves of £193 million and over 60 branches throughout the Midlands. The Society is a member of The Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme and authorised to receive investments on behalf of Trustees. The net equivalent figures quoted assume income taxed accounted for at the basic rate of 25%. If you are a UK resident you can receive interest without tax deducted if you are able to self-certify your non-taxpayer status using form (R85). Alternatively, your interest will be paid net of basic rate tax. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds an investor's liability to tax. (If any). *A charge equal to 10 days' interest on the amount withdrawn will be deducted from the balance of the account for each withdrawal and this effectively reduces the rates earned. After 28.2.94 rates paid are variable.

THE A-Z of WARRANTS

Warrants Alert, The Sion, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2EP. Tel: 0275-855558 - The McHattie Group

A is for Abtrust New Dawn 'B' warrants, which we advised subscribers to buy at 8p in October last year. The current price is 107p - an astonishing rise of 1,237.5%. This provides a dramatic demonstration of the 'gearing' effect of warrants which can provide such large profits. After all, Abtrust New Dawn shares rose by only 143% over the same period.

B is for BTR, one of the large 'blue-chip' companies which supports the UK warrants market. These warrants are easy to trade and to follow.

C is for Capital Gains, something for which warrants are ideally suited. Warrants have the potential for much larger gains than shares, and in rising markets they produce some astonishing profits - IF you have the right information.

D is for Discount, our special offer to new subscribers. Over the next year we will demonstrate the tremendous opportunities which warrants can provide, after which we are sure you will be pleased to join our growing list of regular subscribers. In the meantime you can subscribe for a year at our 1993 price of just £49.95 - a discount of £40! **This offer closes on 31st December, when the price will rise.**

E is for Editor. Andrew McHattie has edited *Warrants Alert* since 1989 and is well known as the UK's leading independent warrants analyst. He is the author of the best-selling Pitman/Financial Times book, *The Investor's Guide to Warrants.*



F is for Fleming Chinese Investment Trust, one of a number of recent investment trust issues with warrants attached. *Warrants Alert* covers all new issues and will advise you whether to buy more warrants, hold your entitlement, or sell them in the market.

G is for Gartmore Emerging Pacific, whose warrants we recommended in January at 17p, then again in February at 21p (mid-prices). The current price is 95p.

H is for Hanson, whose warrants carry the right to subscribe for one share at 300p at any time until 30th September 1997. *The Warrants Directory,* which is sent free to all new subscribers, lists the full subscription terms for all UK warrants.

I is for Introductory Guide. Don't worry if you haven't invested in warrants before - every subscriber receives a free copy of our essential introductory booklet. This will provide you with concise explanations of what warrants are, where they come from, how they are evaluated, and what all the jargon means.

N is for Newsletter. Subscribers receive the *Warrants Alert* newsletter promptly on the first Saturday of every month. This keeps you right up to date with all market news, telling you which warrants to buy (and why), which to avoid, and when to take your profits.

O is for Oriental Smaller Companies warrants, which were available for 30p on their first day of dealings in April. The current price is 118p.

P is for Paribas French Investment Trust 'B' warrants, which we recommended at 8p in January. The current price is 35.5p.

Q is for Query. How do I deal in warrants? The answer is that you deal in exactly the same way as shares, with the same dealing charges. You can deal through your existing broker, or we can provide one for you.

R is for Risk. Warrants do carry a higher risk than ordinary shares, and we would not advise anyone to invest in the warrants market without the benefit of specialist advice. You must be properly informed before dealing.

S is for Stock Exchange. All of the warrants we cover are fully listed on the Stock Exchange just like ordinary shares. There are over 195 warrants traded, forming one of the most exciting markets in the UK.

T is for Track Record. We are proud of our advice and the performance of our 'tips'. Our average gain from ALL recommendations over the last twelve months is 104.6%. This covers a total of 24 recommendations, 20 of which have risen in value, providing excellent profits for subscribers.

U is for Unique. *Warrants Alert* is the only publication dedicated to UK warrants, and has been published since 1989. There is no other source which provides the private investor with such expert information and advice.

W is for What Our Subscribers Say. With our track record it is not surprising that our existing subscribers seem very happy:

"The best investment I ever made!" **KB, Twickenham**
"I made a profit of £800 on my first trade. Thank you." **FNM, South Glamorgan**
"Literally paid for itself several times over within days." **RSB, North Humberside**
"A valuable tip sheet which I still look forward to after three years." **FBL, Newport**
"Simply the best." **TPC, Nottingham**

Z is for Zero, the amount you pay for the FREE publications we send to all new subscribers. When you subscribe you will receive our booklet *An Introductory Guide to Warrants;* our reference guide *The Warrants Directory;* plus fortnightly updates to supplement your newsletter.

To join our fast-growing membership, simply complete your details on the coupon below and return it to us. We will then be pleased to start your 12-month subscription at the discount rate of £49.95. (Overseas, please add £15 for air mail).

Warning: The prices of warrants can be volatile. You should not buy warrants with money you cannot afford to lose.

- DISCOUNT COUPON VALID UNTIL 31st DECEMBER -

YES, Please start my subscription to Warrants Alert at the introductory rate of £49.95 (UK). I understand that I will receive three free publications in addition to my monthly newsletter.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr
Address
Postcode
Date

To (your bank) Bank plc.
Address
Current Account no.
Branch sort code
Please pay to National Westminster Bank plc (50-41-10), 1 Abbey Road, London, NW10 7RA, for the credit of WARRANTS ALERT, account number 02486997 the sum of £49.95 on receipt of this order and thereafter £89.95 on the same date each year until countermanded by me.
Signature
Bank please quote ref no. Office Use Only T12/93

Please return to: Warrants Alert, FREEPOST (BS 6784), The Sion, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2BR

Pensioners risk losing out from cut in gilt sales

Securities that provide income for retirement annuities are set to become dearer as the Government sells fewer. **Jill Insley** reports

Pensioners are likely to lose further income from annuities after the government decision, given in the Budget, to cut sales of gilt-edged securities.

Annuities provide income in private pension schemes. On retirement, when a pensioner's personal pension or occupational scheme matures, much of the fund is used to buy an annuity. The annuity can provide level or escalating income until death, and the income payable is set by the fund manager at the outset.

Most annuities invest in gilts, so income from annuities is closely linked to gilt yields, particularly of 15-year gilts. The government sets the coupon on gilts as close as it can to the prevailing interest rate, so the fall in interest rates in recent years has greatly reduced the pension payable from retirement savings.

People who retired before this fall enjoy what now appear very generous rates of return. However, with interest rates expected to stay low in the 1990s, people retiring now will be much worse off.

The cost of an annuity is set according to actuarial mortality tables and the yield of gilts at the time of retirement.

David Bird, of National Mutual Life, says that the rate it uses to calculate the cost of an annuity has fallen from 12 per cent in 1990-1 to 7.5 per cent. A man or woman of 60 therefore now pays 40 per cent more per pound of pension.

Fewer gilt sales will increase competition among fund managers, particularly for longer-dated gilts. This means that their price will rise, reducing yields. "It has a direct effect on annuity rates," Mr Bird says. Major annuity providers, such as Prudential, Generali and Scottish Widows, which price products more competitively, are very sensitive to smaller changes in yield. Generali has reduced its rates by 0.2 per cent since the Budget and predicts further cuts. The Prudential, which reduced rates just before the Budget, waited until last Thursday before making another slight downward adjustment. David Cheeseman of Prudential Financial Services, says: "We felt that any reaction immediately after the Budget might be an overreaction."

Major annuity providers are sensitive to changes in yield

David Lloyd, of Scottish Widows, says: "Gilt yields have fallen sharply since the Budget. Annuity rates can generally expect to become more expensive in these circumstances." Scottish Widows' annuity rate for a 65-year-old man had fallen by 4 per cent since the Budget, he says.

Equitable Life, provider of conventional, index- and unit-linked and with-profits annuities, reduced its annuity rate on Budget day, November 30. Shaun Kinnis, marketing director, says: "We shall keep looking at them." The adjustment means that a man of 65 putting £10,000 into a compulsory annuity before November 30 would receive a monthly payment of £94.92. If investing after this date, he would receive £91.93.

David Dunn, of NPI, says that a unit-linked annuity, investing in equities, could provide more growth than a gilt-based one, but "inevitably there is a risk attached to unit-linked products".

Normally investors are committed to annuities for life, but Equitable Life's Managed Annuity compulsory purchase annuity allows pensioners to manage the investment portfolio underlying their pension. They may commit some or all of their money to a traditional annuity pension. Alternatively, they may put all or part of the pension in to Equitable's unit-linked or with-profits funds and switch the money from one to another. This may be moved at any stage to the traditional annuity.

Mr Kinnis says: "It stops someone at 50 or 55 making an irrevocable decision about his pension investment." The managed annuity is suitable for people who have actively managed their pension portfolio during the build-up to retirement, he says.

Wealthy investors who expect to live long after retirement, and who are alarmed by the prospect of committing all their pension fund in one go, could consider phased retirement. For this, a prospective pensioner must have a personal pension contract that can be split into many segments, usually 1,000. A portion of the fund may then be encashed each year.

Mick Bamford, of IFA Weybourne Financial Services, says: "Phased retirement will suspend the purchase of some of the annuity until the pensioner is aged 75 if required."

Phased retirement can, however, cause complications for those wishing to guarantee pension payments to survivors if they die. It is more suitable for those who need not rely entirely on their pension.

INVEST IN ASIA

For further details ring our free Moneyline now, on

0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Sara McConnell explains rescue formula for those who switched

Company schemes are hard to beat

PENSIONS UPDATE

Trustees of company pension schemes should be doing more to explain the benefits of their schemes and how much employers are contributing, so that people are not wrongly persuaded to transfer into a personal pension, pensions experts said this week. Many people do not know what benefits they will get from staying in their company scheme and do not realise that they would have to buy these separately if they went into a personal pension.

Almost all the 500,000 people who have come out of a company scheme and put their money into a personal pension in the past five years have been badly advised and will now be compensated. Mark Dampier of Whitechurch Securities, the financial adviser based in Bristol, said: "The problem is that people don't understand what they have with their company scheme. They don't know what their employers are putting in. People are gullible and believe salesmen". Trustees should also have asked more questions when people opted out, said Mr Dampier.

'People do not understand what they have with company schemes'

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), chaired by Andrew Large, which has been privately investigating allegations of widespread misselling of personal pensions for the last 18 months, has now said publicly that significant numbers of personal pension policies have been wrongly sold either to people who still work for the organisation whose scheme they have left, or who have transferred a pension out of a previous scheme. Those opting out of their existing scheme will probably have lost most because they have been losing out on contributions made on their behalf by their employer. However, most people taking transfers from previous schemes would have done better to stay where they are.

SIB has set up a committee to decide how investors will be compensated and how to tighten the regulations to prevent hard sell tactics by salesmen. It said that everyone given bad advice will be compensated and put back into the position they would have been in had they remained in their company scheme. Insurers will be compelled to examine every transfer into a personal pension. SIB has advised people in this situation to stay in their personal pension until next July when the committee will have decided how they should be compensated. Payouts will probably not start until November, when high priority cases including those about to retire, will be compensated first. Some will be able to return to their company scheme, if the trustees allow them to, with insurers topping up their pension to cover lost employers' contributions. Others who are not allowed to return are likely to find that insurers are told to provide the same benefits from the personal pension as they would get from their company scheme.

SIMON WALKER



The SIB, chaired by Andrew Large, has been privately investigating criticisms for 18 months

Answers to investors' most pressing questions

INVESTORS who were wrongly advised to transfer must wait until at least July next year before they hear from the company that sold them the pension. The SIB has given a warning that it will probably be November before the first payouts start because insurance companies will have to contact investors individually. While investors wait to see if they have been given bad advice, here are answers to some of the most pressing questions they may be asking.

Q. If I have had bad advice, will I lose out?

No. Regulators are insisting that insurers and advisers open all their files and look at every case. Anyone who has been given bad advice will be compensated and put back in the position they would have been in if they had not come out of the scheme.

Q. Can I get back into my company scheme?

This depends on the rules of the scheme and is up to the trustees.

Q. What happens if the trustees will not let me back in?.

Then it is up to the insurance company whose agent sold you the scheme to top up your pension to what it would have been in the company scheme. The insurer is also likely to be told by regulators that it must pay the level of benefits you would have got from the company scheme. If you bought your pension through an independent financial adviser, his or her firm will probably be responsible for compensating you.

Q. Should I take my money out of my personal pension now, if I think I have lost out?

No. You could risk losing compensation payments. You should wait until next year when regulators have decided how compensation will be worked out.

Q. Am I guaranteed compensation?

Yes, if the regulators conclude you have been given bad advice.

Q. Should I contact the insurance company or agent that sold me the personal pension?

You can do. Some have set up helplines. It may be worth finding out if your insurer has set up any mechanism for checking files and compensating investors before the regulators' investigation. But it will be up to the companies to contact you if you have suffered.

Q. When will I get compensation?

After July 1994, when the regulatory committee has worked out how to make payments. SIB says that pensions are a long-term investment and people will not lose by waiting.

M&G COMMODITY

Commodity funds are widely seen by many institutional investors as next year's strong performers. Since its launch on 22nd March 1976 the M&G Commodity Unit Trust has out-performed the Commodity and Energy Sector by over 40% to 1st November 1993.

THE M&G COMMODITY & GENERAL FUND

Please return this coupon to The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

You should consult your financial adviser (if you have one) before investing.

Mr/Mrs/Miss INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE LCNY

Or Telephone:

(0245) 390390

(Business Hours).

Issued by M&G Securities Limited. Member of IMRO and Lautro. Registered in England No. 90776. Registered office: Three Quays, Tower Hill, London, EC3R 6BQ.

M&G

THE M&G GROUP

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested. The investments held by this fund are very volatile and investors should expect wider than average price fluctuations.

Source: Micropal. Over the five year period to 1st November 1993, £1,000 would have grown to £1,538.5 with net income reinvested.

Not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

We have been advising our clients nationwide since 1978 on how best to achieve their financial objectives. Capital growth and an increasing income during retirement are essential to keep pace with inflation. Our Brochure ***simply*** describes many of the different investments available today. It can help ***you*** decide where to focus your attention.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE

FIMBRA

YRA

Young Ridgway & Associates Limited

Freepost:10 Borelli Yard, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7BR Tel: 0252 727122

FINANCIAL CARE FOR RETIREMENT

Please send me a ***FREE*** copy of your brochure.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

Address

Postcode

Telephone No

TT 11-12

هكذا من الأصل

What to look out for in good company and personal pension schemes

Ways to nurse a pensions nest-egg

PENSIONS UPDATE



Public employees such as nurses and teachers enjoy generous index-linked benefits

Company pension schemes fall into two main camps (Sara McConnell writes). In final salary schemes, the pension is a proportion of an employee's final salary; in money purchase schemes, its value depends on the investment performance of the contributions invested by the employer and the employee. A final salary scheme will contain some or all of the following elements:

☐ The employee contributes, typically, up to 5 per cent of salary (this could be defined as an employee's whole gross salary or basic earnings minus a sum for required minimum pension provision). The employer will also make a contribution, typically up to two and a half times that of the employee. Some employers take contribution holidays if their scheme is in surplus but employees will be guaranteed the same benefits. Some schemes are "non contributory" with only the employer paying in.

☐ Benefits can be indexed. The link could be either to inflation or to a formula (for example, the retail price index or 5 per cent, whichever is less). Some companies will index benefits at their discretion, though there is no guarantee. Teachers, nurses, local authority employees, civil servants and other public-sector employees have particularly generous provision in this respect.

☐ The pension payout may be based on one sixtieth of salary for every year of service, with a maximum of two thirds of final salary after 40 years' service. The most generous schemes define final salary as that earned in the final year; others take the best three years out of the final ten.

Employees in money-purchase schemes have to choose and buy their own annuities

☐ There is a tax-free lump sum of up to one and a half times final salary up to certain limits. All employees in company pension schemes can take part of their pensions as tax-free lump sums, contrary to what some people have been told by salesmen trying to tempt them into personal pensions.

☐ Retirement may be flexible. Many schemes have a retirement age of 65 for both male and female employees and others will follow after the government's announcement last week that the state pension age would be 65. However, some schemes allow people to take early retirement on reduced pensions.

☐ Retirement pension may be paid early for ill or disabled employees who are unable to continue working. This will be the full expected pension of one sixtieth of salary for every year of service based on present salary.

☐ A widow or widower may receive a death in service or death in retirement payment of 50 per cent of the spouse's expected pension, based on his or her present salary. The most generous schemes will pay two thirds.

☐ Dependants of an employee who dies in service may receive life assurance in a lump sum of up to four times salary.

A money purchase scheme will offer many of the same insurance benefits as final salary schemes if the employer has arranged block policies with life offices.

However, there is no guarantee of any defined benefit based on salary in a money purchase scheme.

Employees with money purchase schemes have to choose and buy their own annuities. These are sold by insurance companies and pay out a guaranteed level of income until death.

Pros and cons of personal pensions

PERSONAL pensions were introduced in 1988 by a government keen for people to make their own retirement provision. They can be taken from job to job and those who can afford it can retire at 50. Personal pensions can be useful for people who change jobs frequently. As in money purchase schemes, the amount in the pot at retirement depends both on how much has been put in and on how well it has been invested. It is possible to buy life assurance and disability benefits with a personal pension but these cost extra. Providing for a spouse's or dependant's pension is also possible but will use up some of the fund.

Those with no company scheme could consider taking out a personal pension from an insurer. However, most people who have been in a company scheme, even if they have left that company, will not benefit from transferring. Final salary schemes will almost always offer better benefits. Although the benefits from money purchase schemes are not guaranteed, there is little point moving the money invested there into a personal pension. There would be extra charges to pay and there is no guarantee that contributions to a personal pension would be better invested.

BUYERS of personal pensions should look for the following:

■ Good investment performance over the past five to 10 years. This is not a guarantee, but gives a clue to possible performance. Many schemes offer a choice of funds, with varying levels of risk in which contributions can be invested. These may include safe cash and fixed rate deposit funds, more risky with-profit funds that invest mostly in equities but earn bonuses every year, and riskier equity funds from safer managed funds, to funds placed in the speculative Far Eastern and emerging markets.

■ Free switching from one fund to another if there is a choice. Those nearing retirement may want to move to a less risky fund.

■ Waiver of premium. This allows people to stop paying contributions if they are taking a career break — such as starting a family. This costs a couple of pounds extra a month. Someone who has made contributions for two years could expect a waiver of premium right for up to five years.

■ The facility to buy life cover alongside the pension. Cover bought in this way attracts tax relief at the highest marginal rate on life assurance premiums as on pension contributions. Otherwise life cover, which pays out a lump sum on death to dependants, can be bought separately but without tax relief.

Personal pensions do not benefit from the following factors:

■ Few employers will make a contribution to a personal pension. This is the single most important argument against taking out a personal pension for those eligible for a company scheme.

■ Indexation. The only way to provide against inflation is to increase contributions.

Unfortunately, most sensible people keep their money in the Building Society.

INVESTMENT OF £1,000 IN DECEMBER 1945

	Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC†	Building Society Highest Available Rate*
1945	£1,000	£1,000
1970	£30,269	£2,369
1985	£191,470	£7,741
1993	£754,433	£14,464

This table may come as a shock for building society account holders. But these are the facts of life for savers.

Rising prices, the rising cost of living, inflation that won't go away, mean that you really have to invest to save seriously over the longer term.

Fortunately, to help protect your future, you can place some of your savings in Foreign & Colonial's range of investment trusts through our Private Investor Plan.

The truth is that while we all start as savers of modest means, by leaving most of your money in a building society, you'll remain a saver of modest means.

Shouldn't you seriously be considering investing with the world's oldest investment trust manager?

For further information telephone the number below, stating where you saw the advertisement. Alternatively, post the coupon today.

* Basic net rate in 1972 - source: BZW. Thereafter, higher net rate - source: Micropal. Figures are to 31st December (1993 figure to 30th September) and are based on total return, net income reinvested. †Calculation by Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, using mid-market prices, net income reinvested, at 31st December (1993 figure to 30th September), includes historical 3.5% notional expenses. Current charges are 0.2% commission excluding 0.5% Government stamp duty (minimum 50p).

Share in the success.

24 HOUR PHONE SERVICE 0734 344447

Foreign & Colonial INVESTMENT TRUSTS

For a copy of our Private Investor Plan brochure and application form, send this coupon to: Foreign & Colonial Management Limited, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

T12/12/93

Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd is Manager of fourteen Foreign & Colonial Investment Trusts and a member of IMRO. The value of shares can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future.

EXCHANGE YOUR SHARES FOR A PEP

Ring our free Moneyline now to find out how.

0800 282 101

9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m., 7 days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

THE TIMES "PEPS"

Will be the subject of a comprehensive special report on Saturday January 22 1994.

For details regarding advertising opportunities please telephone either :-

Simon Broch 071 782 7115 or

Ross Webster 071 782 7523

Prosperity Emerging Markets Unit Trust

THE TOP PERFORMER

1st over 5 years +306%*

£1,000 invested in Prosperity's Emerging Markets Unit Trust on 1st December 1988 would have grown to **£4,065** on 1st December 1993.*

Performance over 1 year +68%*

*Source: Micropal to 1st December 1993, offer to bid with net income reinvested. International Equity Growth Sector.

Call FREE on 0800 521546

Prosperity Unit Trust Management Limited (Member of LAUTRO, IMRO and AUTIF)
1 Sessions House Square, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and past performance is no guarantee of future returns. You may not get back the amount originally invested. You should not, therefore, invest money which you cannot afford to expose to some degree of risk.

Special 1% Discount until 31st December 1993

T12/12/93

Please send me details of Prosperity Emerging Markets Unit Trust

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS COUPON TO: Sue Taylor, Prosperity Unit Trust Management Limited FREEPOST, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1BR

PROSPERITY financial services group

HEAVEN FROM PENNY SHARES

How Penny Shares can make you serious money

It seems obvious that smaller companies have the greatest potential for growth. And it is a fact consistently borne out on the stock market.

Indeed, over the past year, the FT-SE Smaller Capital Index has out performed the *FT-SE 100 by 20%. And last* year 18 of the top 20* stock market performers began as penny shares – that is, shares trading for under 50p a share.

How do you identify the ones with the greatest potential for success? Where do you find the time to do the necessary research, read all the company reports, analyse the possibilities and then make a well informed choice?

This is exactly the kind of work we specialise in – and you'll find the results every month, in *Penny Share Guide.*

Penny Share Guide advises you of investment opportunities in specific shares targeted by our experts as fulfilling the conditions for potential growth. Not only do we recommend *when to buy, we continue to* monitor the shares performance and advise you when to sell or if you should continue to hold on to your investment.

The cost of buying and selling shares can be prohibitive to the smaller investors, however, as a subscriber you can apply to join the 'Fleet Street Investors' Club' and take advantage of special dealing charges we have negotiated for you, starting from an incredible £8.50 per transaction.

And with the stock market reaching records levels we are currently offering a 50% first year discount, 12 months of *Penny Share Guide* for only £25, plus we will send you FREE copies of our *Guide to Investment* and the *Do's and Don'ts of Penny Share Investment.*

To take advantage of this special introductory offer simply return the subscription form below (you don't need a stamp). Remember you won't find *Penny Share Guide* at your newsagent. It is available by private subscription only. And as a subscriber, you will be joining a select group of investors with the inside track on a group of highly promising stocks tipped for success.

* *Datastream top performing shares 13 December 1991 – 15 December 1992*

Penny Share Guide, IBC House, Brooklands Industrial Park, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0BR.

INTRODUCTORY SUBSCRIPTION FORM

YES... I would like to save over £30 and subscribe to THE PENNY SHARE GUIDE at the special introductory rate of just £25 for the first 12 months.

Name: _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms.

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Date _____ Signature _____

required on all orders

☐ I wish to pay by standing order.

Please pay to National Westminster Bank plc (60-18-43T), 2 St Alphage Highwalk, London EC2Y 2DX for the account of The Penny Share Guide Ltd, Account No. 46980784, the sum of £25 on receipt and £59.50 annually thereafter on the same date until countermanded by me.

To: _____ Bank plc

Branch Code & Full Address: _____

Account Number _____ Sort Code _____

Post to:
PENNY SHARE GUIDE, FREEPOST
(no stamp required)
IBC House, Brooklands Industrial Park,
Weybridge KT13 0BR

CLTC TELEPHONE: 071-625 8656

Fleet Street Publications Ltd.
Registered in England No. 193 7374.
Registered Office: 57/61 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7TD

FIMBRA MEMBER

Do remember that shares are, by their very nature, speculative and that generally, investments in smaller companies have a higher risk factor so you should never invest more than you can safely afford as you may not get back the full amount invested. It can also be more difficult to sell or realise such an investment.

If you do not wish to receive further attractive offers from Fleet Street Publications or other carefully selected organisations in the future, please tick box ☐

Taking cover behind the small print

From Lorna Sutherland

Sir, I was very interested in your article about mortgage protection schemes. Three years ago my employer unexpectedly died. As this happened in the month of October it was virtually impossible to get another job, let alone an interview, prior to Christmas.

Thankfully I started a new job in January but remembered that I had ticked the revelant box for insurance on my store card. I telephoned their financial services section, to be told that they could process my claim retrospectively. When the form came through, one of the questions is the name and address of the unemployment benefit office that I had signed on with. I hadn't needed to do this, although my finances were very restricted.

The store insisted that I prove that I was looking for a job and requested written confirmation from the secretarial agencies that I had registered with them and was genuinely looking for a job. As I have already said, I was by this time re-employed, so I obviously must have been trying!

The whole exercise left me so angry that I abandoned my claim and cancelled the insurance. Of course, this is a mere trifle of an experience compared with the poor soul mentioned in your article. These policies are worded to stand up in a court and are difficult for ordinary people to understand. Insurance companies always give the impression of being there to assist in bad times. Wrong! They are there to make money, and they don't make money by settling claims. Your part of the deal is to pay when times are good. Their part of the deal is to pay when my times are bad. Instead, they run behind the security blanket of small print.

In times gone by, you could tell a highwayman, now they all wear suits.

Yours faithfully,
LORNA SUTHERLAND,
2 Colebrook Place,
Guildford Road,
Ottershaw,
Surrey.

LETTERS



Spot the difference when footing the bill

From M. G. Ollerenshaw

Sir, "Without government funding, the cohsumer will have to foot the bill" (Robert Miller, Weekend Money, November 27) — on funding the cleaning of water.

And where would the government get its funding, pray?

Yours faithfully,
M. G. OLLERENSHAW,
Heybridge Hill,
London Road,
Prestbury,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire.

Really pleased with Peps

From David L. Underwood

Sir, It appears that your correspondents who complain about Pep charges exceeding tax savings have invested in individual shares. I have taken a different line and am more than happy with the results.

I have four Peps. Three are invested in unit trusts and one in an investment trust. Total income this year will be about £2,100, after all charges, and the tax savings of more than £400 are, to my mind, more than worthwhile. I look forward to adding to my Pep portfolio in future years.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. UNDERWOOD,
49 Downlands Close,
Downton,
Salisbury, Wilts.

Good economics of water metering

From the Director General of Water Services

Sir, Mr F. Paul Taylor (Weekend Money Letters, December 4) claims water metering means everyone will pay more and provides figures alleged to prove it. Nobody is advocating universal metering, but there are a number of cases where metering has benefits that exceed the cost.

Many people would benefit by opting for a meter. Ofwat is pressing all companies to improve their meter options. There are also many cases where water metering is a cheaper alternative to resource development. The Isle of Wight metering trials showed significant reduction in leakage as well as reduced demand.

Installation of meters can be cheap. The most obvious case is when building new homes, where I would expect an efficient company to be able to provide and maintain a meter for £6 a year, with the costs of meter reading and billing adding a further £6 a year, i.e. £12 a year, not the £93 quoted by Mr Taylor.

He cites a £19 figure for billing and meter reading from the Isle of Wight study. I see no reason why these costs should not fall to levels experienced in other utilities, such as electricity.

He claims partial metering is grossly unfair, but is the current position any fairer where the low user pays the same as the heavy user?

Yours faithfully,
IAN BYATT,
Office of Water Services,
Centre City Tower,
7 Hill Street,
Birmingham.

From D. F. B. Le Breton,

Sir, If the real costs of water metering are as described by Mr F. Paul Taylor, will he or the Water Services Association please explain how they compare with costs and charges in other countries where water metering is the norm, and where water supply companies operate on an ordinary commercial basis.

Why should the position in Britain be so different?

As for the cost of reading the meter, is there any valid reason why the water, gas and electricity supply companies cannot arrange their respective readings, which in most cases need only be about once a year, done by the same trained meter readers instead of each being done separately?

Apart from the apparent cost savings, there would be the additional public benefit of reducing the volume of unnecessary journeys, mostly by road.

Yours faithfully,
D. F. B. LE BRETON,
Brackenwood,
French Street,
Westerham,
Kent.

From M. H. Burr

Sir, F. P. Taylor's letter presents a very one-sided view of water meters.

When we moved here some eight years ago, our water bill, based on rates, was £330 a year.

It cost us £120 to have the meter installed and that same year our costs fell to £180. They have remained constant at this figure — within 5 per cent — every year since, although this year we look like making a greater saving, having installed a large water butt to collect the rainwater, and this has virtually eliminated the need to use mains water for the garden.

Having a meter has made us more aware of the need for sensible use of water and this is surely a good thing and a main benefit of the meter system. Finally, unlike Mr Taylor, we have never had cause to doubt the accuracy and reliability of our meter.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. BURR,
Church House,
Almshouse Lane,
Newmillerdam,
Wakefield,
West Yorkshire.

Business letters to *The Times* can be faxed to 071-782 5112.

Friends Provident

Ethical

Investment Trust

OFFER CLOSES 21st DECEMBER 1993

A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY MANAGED COMPANIES

Based on the same proven ethical investment criteria as the successful Stewardship Funds, the split capital structure of the new Trust is designed to provide shareholders with an attractive dividend yield and the prospect of real capital growth.

- *Minimum investment of £1,000, payable in instalments*
- *Ordinary Shares likely to yield 8.1% gross p.a. initially*
- *Zero Dividend Shares with an entitlement to capital growth at 8.1% p.a.*
- *Units available comprising one Ordinary Share and one Zero Dividend Share*
- *Both classes of Share fully qualify for PEPs*

For a prospectus and application form, please complete and return the coupon or call:

FRIENDS PROVIDENT HELPLINE on 0722 413134

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

T.11.12.93

Please send me a prospectus and application form for Friends Provident Ethical Investment Trust

Return to:
Customer Information Centre
Friends' Provident Life Office
UK House, Castle Street, Salisbury, SP1 3SB

This advertisement has been approved by Greig, Middleton & Co. Limited, a member of the Securities and Futures Authority Limited for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Prospective investors should note that applications must be made on the basis of the listing particulars. The value of an investment in Friends Provident Ethical Investment Trust may fluctuate and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	0.88	0.88	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.47	3.47	2.78	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.23	3.23	2.58	5,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
"	2.81	2.81	2.25	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
Lloyds	2.81	2.81	2.25	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
"	2.81	2.81	2.25	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528655
Midland	3.47	3.47	2.78	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528655
" " "	3.38	3.38	2.70	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
NatWest	3.09	3.09	2.47	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	3.00	3.00	2.40			
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	2.88	2.93	2.34	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	1.69	1.69	1.35	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.19	0.19	0.15	500‡	none	071 626 6543
Cl/Bank	3.75	3.82	3.06	2,000‡	none	0800 555884
Lloyds HICA	0.56	0.56	0.45	1,000	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	1.12	1.12	0.90	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	0.56	0.56	0.45	500‡	none	0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.50	1.51	1.21	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank Irist Cheque Acct	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000‡	none	071-600 8020
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Northern Rock	5.39	5.33	4.26	20,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid.	5.36	5.36	4.29	100,000 min	Postal	——
Bristol & West	4.73	4.73	3.78	50,000 min	30 day	——
Woolwich	5.63	5.63	4.50	50,000 min	90 day	——
The Leeds	5.10	5.10	4.08	100,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Northern Rock	5.14	5.14	4.11	10,000 min	Postal	——
North of England	5.44	5.44	4.35	25,000 min	30 day	——
St Pancras	5.59	5.59	4.47	25,000 min	60 day	——
Woolwich	5.81	5.81	4.65	100,000 min	90 day	——
Newcastle	5.44	5.44	4.35	5,000 min	1 year	——

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5799 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c*	3.75	2.81	2.25	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	6.25	4.69	3.75	20-24,999	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-24,999	3 mth	0253 766151
6th Index Linkd*	3.25	3.25	3.25	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
40th Issue Cert*	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan*	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.85	7.85	7.85	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Retst	3.75	3.75	3.75			
Capital Bond*	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8 days	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond*	4.75	4.75	3.80	1,000-250,000		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated Lf	4.30	4.30	3.96	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Prosperity Life	4.78	4.78	4.08	25,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Ass	5.20	5.20	4.42	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Liberty Life	6.40	6.40	5.44	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES		**HOLIDAY RATES**	£ buys
RPI (Oct 82-83)	+1.4%	Spanish Pesetas:	202.00
Bank Base Rate	5.5%	French Francs:	8.50
Personal Loan	26%	Greek Drachma:	360.00
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2450.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum invstmt	Telephone number
Hinckley & Rgby	8.05	£3,241.50	90 days loss	£25	0455 251234
St Pancras	8.00	£3,240.00	£25+30days notice	£10	071 7942331
Dunfermline	7.90	£3,237.00	1mths notice+loss	£3,000	0383 721621
Dudley	7.87	£3,236.10	Reverts share A/C	£10	0384 231414
Shepshed	7.80	£3,234.00	£25	£1	0509 503302

‡ 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. † Additional holdings up to £50,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. ††Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross at higher rates for larger sums. ^ Guaranteed above rate of inflation. ^ 0.5% net bonus for amounts £20,000+. Compiled by LUCY DUPUIS

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Cheltenham & Glos 0452 372372	3.99	to £70K	90	Rate shown after 4% discount to June 94
Britannia 0538 399399	3.73	to £100K	70	Rate after 4.02% discount to 1.12.94
Newcastle 091 232 6676	3.90	to £250K	95	Rate fixed to 30.6.94 then current or fixed
BANKS				
BNP Mortgages 071 895 7447	3.75	£15-£150K	85	Rate capped for 1 year
BANKS				
Royal Bank of Scot 031 556 8555	5.49	neg.	95	Rate shown at 2% discount for 1 year

Source: Bisy's MortgageMatch. Further info: Bisy's Guides 0753 880482

ALL BOX NO REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

BOX No.....
BOX NO. DEPT
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA
STREET
WAPPING
LONDON
E1 9DD

'TOP UP' YOUR COMPANY PENSION

Find out more. Ring our free Moneyline now, on:

0800 282 101

9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m., 7 days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

CGT ALLOWANCES

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in October 1993

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.716	0.633	0.555	0.473	0.418
February	—	0.709	0.626	0.542	0.466	0.412
March	0.785	0.706	0.621	0.528	0.466	0.410
April	0.750	0.682	0.600	0.496	0.452	0.393
May	0.737	0.675	0.594	0.489	0.449	0.392
June	0.732	0.671	0.590	0.486	0.450	0.392
July	0.732	0.662	0.591	0.489	0.454	0.393
August	0.731	0.655	0.577	0.485	0.450	0.389
September	0.732	0.648	0.574	0.486	0.442	0.385
October	0.724	0.642	0.564	0.483	0.440	0.378
November	0.715	0.636	0.559	0.478	0.428	0.371
December	0.719	0.632	0.560	0.476	0.423	0.373
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
January	0.373	0.277	0.187	0.089	0.046	0.028
February	0.367	0.268	0.180	0.083	0.040	0.022
March	0.362	0.263	0.168	0.079	0.037	0.018
April	0.340	0.241	0.133	0.065	0.022	0.009
May	0.335	0.233	0.124	0.062	0.018	0.005
June	0.330	0.229	0.119	0.057	0.018	0.006
July	0.329	0.228	0.118	0.060	0.022	0.008
August	0.314	0.225	0.107	0.057	0.021	0.004
September	0.308	0.216	0.097	0.053	0.017	-NIL-
October	0.295	0.207	0.088	0.050	0.014	——
November	0.289	0.197	0.091	0.046	0.015	——
December	0.286	0.194	0.092	0.045	0.019	——

The FI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	20,000	Cadbury	2,700	MEPC	830	Scot Power	2,400	
Abbey Natl	6,700	Caradon	826	Marks Spr	3,800	Sears	8,100	
Allid-Lyons	1,300	Carlton Cms	1,800	NFC	1,800	Svrn Trent	1,200	
Anglian W	501	Coats Vyla	1,800	NatWst Bk	5,600	Shell Trans	4,700	
Argyll Gp	4,100	Cm Union	3,500	Nat Power	5,800	Siebe	1,500	
Arjo Wiggn	1,400	Courtaulds	865	Nth Wst W	1,300	SmKl Bch	2,200	
AB Foods	820	Enterpr Oil	1,900	Nthrn Rds	1,100	Smith Nph	2,500	
BAA	703	Forte	1,300	P & O	613	Stnrn Elec	470	
BAT Inds	4,200	GKE	3,100	Pearson	1,700	Std Chartd	2,300	
BOC	690	GUS	3,400	PowerGen	1,500	Sun Allnce	1,500	
BP	11,000	Gen Acc	928	Prudential	2,300	TI Gp	1,800	
BT	6,500	Gen Elec	4,300	RMC	606	TSB	6,100	
BTR	7,500	Glaxo	3,400	RTZ	2,700	Tesco	8,100	
Bk of Scot	5,900	Granada	2,400	Rank Org	689	Thames W	1,900	
Barclays	5,600	Grand Met	6,700	Reckitt Col	1,100	Thrn EMI	1,400	
Bass	3,000	Guinness	2,200	Redland	1,100	Tomkins	5,500	
Blue Circle	3,000	HSBC	1,200	Reed Intl	906	Unilever	1,300	
Boots	1,800	Hanson	8,400	Rentokil	1,300	Utd Biscs	1,800	
Bowater	1,500	ICI	1,500	Reuters	749	Vodafone	2,200	
Brit Aero	1,200	Inchcape	575	Rolls Royce	4,500	Wrbrg (SG)	1,400	
Brit Airways	3,800	Kingfisher	1,300	Ryl Ins	4,400	Wellcome	1,900	
Brit Gas	5,000	Ladbroke	7,200	Ryl Bk Scot	2,500	Whitbd 'A'	813	
Brit Steel	14,000	Land Secs	1,400	Sainsbury	2,800	Wllms Hld	2,000	
Burmah Cil	1,000	Legal & Gn	1,100	Schroders	366	Wolseley	966	
Cable Wire	5,800	Lloyds Bk	2,900	Scot & New	1,500	Zeneca	1,600	

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3731.45 (+1.67)
S&P Composite 463.94 (-0.24)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 17257.43 (+195.52)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10228.11 (+237.85)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency 140.0 (-0.4)

Sydney: AO 2084.9 (-10.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2161.13 (-14.67)

FT 30 share: 2459.7 (-3.3)

Brussels:
General 7318.15 (-39.33)

Paris: CAC n/a

Zurich: SKA Gen 662.00 (+2.10)

London:
FT A All-Share 1603.06 (-3.14)
FT 500 1703.66 (-3.08)
FT Gold Mines 246.7 (-5.0)
FT Fixed Interest 129.82 (+0.33)
FT Govt Secs 106.52 (+0.21)
Bargains 40333
SEAQ Volume 862.5m
USM (Datastrm) 149.77 (-0.12)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 6	December 17	March 10	March 21

Call options were taken out on 10/12/93: AB Engineering, British Bloodstock, Bakyrchik, Caffyns, Celltech, Enterprise Comp, Flextech, Flagstone, LIG, Minmet, P&P, Royal Bank of Scotland, Signet, Tarmac, Triton Europe, Tullow Oil. **Puts:** British Thornton, Caffyns, Celltech, Tullow Oil. **Put & Call:** Bluebird Toys.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 93 ...	3273.0	3293.0	3262.0	3268.0	11060
Previous open interest: 79224	Mar 94 ...	3288.0	3311.5	3282.0	3288.5	2987
Three Month Sterling	Dec 93 ...	94.69	94.69	94.63	94.64	10156
Previous open interest: 426913	Mar 94 ...	94.96	94.96	94.91	94.92	13199
	Jun 94 ...	95.16	95.16	95.10	95.12	7077
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 93 ...	96.61	96.62	96.61	96.63	573
Previous open interest: 14764	Mar 94 ...	96.46	96.46	96.45	96.45	186
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 93 ...	93.93	93.93	93.91	93.92	12729
Previous open interest: 758905	Mar 94 ...	94.63	94.64	94.56	94.57	40309
Long Gilt	Dec 93 ...	118-29	119-11	118-29	119-04	1086
Previous open interest: 144823	Mar 94 ...	118-07	118-22	117-30	118-11	73530
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94 ...	116.85	116.87	116.68	116.76	1813
	Jun 94 ...				115.81	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 94 ...	100.85	101.00	100.68	100.69	108730
Previous open interest: 144084	Jun 94 ...	100.83	100.83	100.80	100.66	51
German Gov Bd Bobl	Mar 94 ...	103.53	103.58	103.44	103.45	1028
Previous open interest: 9428	Jun 94 ...					0
Three month ECU	Dec 93 ...	93.60	93.61	93.57	93.59	900
Previous open interest: 36692	Mar 94 ...	94.31	94.32	94.28	94.29	2398
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 93 ...	95.85	95.87	95.83	95.86	1009
Previous open interest: 63695	Mar 94 ...	96.37	96.41	96.35	96.36	3743
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 94 ...	116.80	117.00	115.62	115.90	35146
Previous open interest: 77639	Jun 94 ...	116.75	116.75	116.75	116.00	1

MONEY WARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 81.5 (day's range 81.5-81.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8952-2.8491	2.8414-2.8445	par-¼ds	par-¼ds
Brussels	53.01-53.30	53.04-53.22	7-12ds	19-28ds
Copenhagen	9.9190-9.9540	9.9200-9.9456	1¾-2¾ds	4¼-5¼ds
Dublin	1.0500-1.0570	1.0550-1.0565	5-8ds	24-28ds
Frankfurt	2.5355-2.5453	2.5364-2.5391	½-¼ds	¾-⅝ds
Lisbon	258.35-260.23	258.35-259.37	130-155ds	375-415ds
Madrid	207.25-208.45	207.25-207.79	63-75ds	180-206ds
Milan	2495.55-2506.95	2502.79-2506.95	6-8ds	19-21ds
Montreal	1.9827-1.9921	1.9865-1.9905	0.28-0.19pr	0.51-0.39pr
New York	1.4930-1.4973	1.4943-1.4949	0.29-0.27pr	0.74-0.71pr
Oslo	11.0046-11.0594	11.0108-11.0368	¼-½ds	1¾-1¾ds
Paris	8.6910-8.7218	8.6910-8.7033	¾-1¼ds	2¾-2¾ds
Stockholm	12.3650-12.5253	12.4571-12.4944	1¾-3ds	4¾-6ds
Tokyo	162.59-163.43	163.02-163.24	½-¾pr	1¾-1¾pr
Vienna	17.8252-17.9035	17.8363-17.8596	par-¼ds	¼-¾ds
Zurich	2.1721-2.1883	2.1793-2.1818	¼-¼pr	¾-¼pr

Source: Extel — *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4925-1.4951
Australia dollar	2.2322-2.2354
Bahrain dinar	0.557-0.569
Brazil cruzeiro *	387.46-388.93
Cyprus pound	0.76-0.77
Finland markka	8.482-8.598
Greece drachma	360.0-370.0
Hong Kong dollar	11.5572-11.5656
India rupee	46.43-47.39
Kuwait dinar KD	0.441-0.451
Malaysia ringgit	3.8174-3.8215
Mexico peso	4.6-4.7
New Zealand dollar	2.6955-2.7007
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.542-5.668
Singapore dollar	2.3904-2.3927
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5586-6.6378
S Africa rand (com)	5.0116-5.0180
U A E dirham	5.4255-5.5495

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4916-1.4927
Austria	11.928-11.953
Belgium (Conv)	35.51-35.55
Canada	1.3305-1.3310
Denmark	6.6337-6.6437
France	5.8120-5.8180
Germany	1.6961-1.6971
Hong Kong	7.7228-7.7233
Ireland	1.4215-1.4235
Italy	1670.0-1671.0
Japan	108.97-108.92
Malaysia	2.5309-2.5519
Netherlands	1.8993-1.9998
Norway	7.3630-7.3660
Portugal	173.30-173.45
Singapore	1.5973-1.5978
Spain	138.84-138.94
Sweden	8.3045-8.3145
Switzerland	1.4530-1.4540

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allid Lyon	600	28½	45½	53½	14	23½	35
(*627½)	650	9½	20½	29	44	51½	64
Argyll	260	13	21½	25½	11	17½	25
(*260)	280	5½	13	17	28	30½	37½
ASDA	50	6	7½	10½	2½	5	6
(*52½)	60	2	4	6	9	11½	12½
Boots	500	56½	67½	75	3½	8½	16½
(*548½)	550	19	34	43½	17	27	36½
Br Airways	420	30½	42	50	11½	19½	27½
(*436)	460	11½	22½	31	33	39½	49
BP	300	33½	30½	34	5½	9½	15
(*316)	330	6½	14	18	20	26	30½
Br Steel	130	10½	15½	20	3	8½	13
(*134)	140	3½	10½	15	11	15	18
C & W	475	33½	46	58½	9½	18	25½
(*498)	500	19½	33½	45	21	30	37
CU	650	24	37	49½	15½	30	36
(*654)	700	5½	16½	27	49	63	67
ICI	750	33	46	57	18½	39½	48½
(*768)	800	12	23	34	49	72	78½
Kingfisher	700	49½	67	76	8½	20½	31
(*734½)	750	19	37½	48½	32	42½	55
Land Sec	750	55½	71	78½	4½	10½	21½
(*794)	800	20½	38	47½	22	28½	43½
M & S	420	34½	44½	49	5	10½	15½
(*467)	460	10½	21	27	22	28	33½
Nat West	550	54½	62½	70½	4½	16	22
(*594½)	600	21½	31½	42½	22	39	45½
Sainsbury	420	16	32	38½	15	22	31
(*423½)	460	3½	15	21	43	46½	56
Shell	650	53	59	66½	4	14½	20½
(*691½)	700	17	27½	38	20½	38	44½
Smkl Bch	360	29	39	48½	9½	18½	25½
(*374½)	390	14	25	34	25½	35	41
Storehse	220	15	22½	27	5½	9½	13½
(*230½)	240	4	13	17	16½	21	25
Trafalgar	80	9	12½	15	3½	5	7½
(*85½)	90	4½	7½	9½	9½	10½	13½
Unilever	1150	53½	74	92½	16	37½	50
(*1177½)	1200	24½	47	66	41	63½	73
Zeneca	750	44	57	71	15	35	47½
(*773)	800	17	30½	47	41½	64	75

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	41	48½	55	10½	16½	19
(*454)	460	15	23½	33	29	34	38½
Ladbroke	160	12	17½	22	11½	18½	23
(*169½)	180	6	9½	14	25	32½	36
Utd Biscs	330	29½	34	38	9	17	21½
(*345)	360	13½	17½	23½	25	35	40½

December 10, 1993 Tot: 38466 Calls: 23378 Puts: 15088 FT-SE Call: 7275 Put: 2935

*Underlying security price.

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	950	62	85½	100	4	21½	33
(*993½)	1000	30	55½	72	29	42½	54
Thames W	550	26½	39½	49	12	20½	34
(*560½)	600	7	16½	25	62	47	64

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	900	41½	47½	53	11	23½	30½
(*922½)	950	14	21½	27½	37½	52½	59
BTR	330	30	34½	40½	6	13½	19½
(*349½)	360	12½	18½	25	20½	29½	31½
Br Aero	420	32	46	57½	28½	40	48
(*431)	460	15½	28	40½	54	64½	72
Br Telcm	460	19½	28½	36	14	18	26
(*469)	500	5	12	18	40½	42½	48½
Cadbury	453	46½	50	—	4½	13	—
(*488½)	493	20½	25	—	18½	31½	—
Guinness	460	25½	35	42	17	27	33½
(*466)	500	8	17½	24	42	52½	58
GEC	300	24½	31	35	5½	8½	14½
(*318)	350	7½	14½	18½	21	24	30
Hanson	360	13½	17	21	8	12½	16½
(*356½)	280	5½	8½	12½	20	24½	28
LASMO	100	16	20	22½	8	14	16
(*104)	110	10	14	17½	14	18	21
Lucas	180	17	22	26	8	12½	15
(*188½)	200	7½	12	16½	19½	24	26½
Pilkington	160	14	19	24	8½	11½	16½
(*168)	180	5	9½	15	22	28½	28½
Prudential	330	31½	35	39½	5½	12	15
(*352)	360	12½	17½	22½	18	27½	30½
Redland	550	60	66½	75	9½	22	27½
(*595)	600	27½	37½	46½	27	46	51½
Royal Ins	317	19	—	—	15½	—	—
(*318)	346	7½	—	—	33½	—	—
Tesco	180	25	29	30½	5	9	10½
(*199½)	200	12	16	19	12	19	20½
Vodafone	550	49½	65½	78½	24	35	46½
(*568)	600	26	38	55	52	62½	72½
Williams	330	32	37	41	6	13	16½
(*351½)	360	14	20½	25	19	28½	32

**FT

Subdued end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 29. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day December 13. Settlement day December 20. ¶Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
497	345	Abbey Nt	466	-15	11.8	3.2	18.0
280	179	Allied Irish	278	...	...	3.7	14.2
226½	130	Ass New 2	224 ‡	-2½	...	3.9	∞
3809½	2712½	Bankamerica	3018½	-63½	...	...	...
395	177	Bk of Ireland	276	...	...	4.5	20.4
380	259	Bk Leumi UK	350	...	...	...	...
1307½	1169	Bank Scotland	1225½	+2½	17.0	6.1	...
646	362	Barclays	611	-19	...	2.6	31.0
4½	2	Benchmark	4½	...	...	...	...
23½	15½	Cattlite	22	...	...	...	5.9
598	398	Carr Allen	597	+4	28.0	5.0	...
153	85	Castles	150	...	...	3.8	20.0
2487½	1787½	Chase Mann	2362½	-9½	...	...	...
2600	1342½	Chlorvy	2393½	-18½	...	...	...
485	250	Close Bros	485	...	...	2.8	17.6
£155	9275	Commerzbk	£154	-62½	...	2.6	...
£346	£250½	Deutsche Bk	£346	+9½	...	1.8	...
98	45	First Nat Fin	59	...	...	1.1	...
1651	870	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	0.4	...
529	343	Gerrard Nat	454	+2	21.5	5.9	12.1
827	490	HSBC	817½	+½	20.0	3.1	19.6
835	474	HSBC Hk	829	+½	20.0	3.0	19.8
403	343	Hambros	370	-6	14.3	4.8	17.1
426	313	Joseph (L)	420	...	16.7	5.0	...
155	9½	King Shaxson	134	-1	9.0	8.7	...
549	312	Kleinwort Ben	545	-2	16.7	3.9	18.9
655	492	Lloyds	621	-20	19.1	3.8	17.8
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	94	-1	2.9	3.9	18.6
573	322	Nat Aust Bk	548	-2	...	3.9	∞
630	398	Nat West	598	-21	17.9	3.7	16.1
460	270	Provident	449	+1	12.4	3.5	10.4
54	39	Rea Bros	52	+1	0.5	1.3	55.3
462	207	Rtr Bk Scot	448	+6	...	3.1	23.5
1336	467½	Schroders	1263	+15	...	1.2	25.2
1250	576	Stand Chart	1212	-17	20.5	2.1	...
349	145½	TSB	343	+4½	6.4	3.3	...
190	78	Union Disc	187	...	...	...	...
940	529	Warburg SG	920	+9	...	2.7	13.2
4600	4845½	Wells Fargo	8156½	-118½	...	2.5	...
205	121	Westpac	203	-2	...	2.5	∞
325	188	Wintrust	318	...	9.3	3.7	28.4

BREWERIES

646	517	Allied-Lyons	624	+3	...	4.3	17.1
647	441	Bass	543	+3	...	4.7	14.3
299	189	Boddington	277	...	7.5	3.4	16.1
499	362	Bulmer (HP)	418	...	...	3.0	18.2
184	129	Burtonwd Brw	175	-5	4.7	3.4	14.6
144	75	Eldridge P 'A'a	144	+8	...	3.1	∞
70½	50	Fosters Brewing	62	-2	...	4.2	∞
625	338	Fuller Sn 'A'a	415	...	7.5	2.3	17.7
1170	830	Grand Met	1125	...	...	3.6	17.3
627	347	Greenalls Grp	600	-6	...	3.8	13.8
575	505	Greene King	568	...	...	2.7	16.1
357	308	Gutmess	486	-7	...	3.3	17.4
281	208	Hardy Hanan	236	...	7.8	4.1	13.1
138	105	Henstreet	135	...	3.0	2.8	32.2
353	255	Highland Dist	331 †	-2	...	2.5	16.5
31½	25½	Holt J	31½	...	...	4.2	17.0
80	33	Hoskins Brew	78 a	...	...	...	56.2
303	250	Invergordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
186	118	Macallan-Glen	170	...	4.3	4.2	20.2
406	375	Macdn Maron 'A'	385 †	...	...	2.8	18.4
255	164	Mansfield	249	...	...	2.8	13.8
399	231	Mstonn Thmp	282 †	...	...	2.5	17.0
557	288½	Matthew Clark	557	+2	...	4.0	18.6
300	210	Morgdwn W	220	-3	7.0	4.0	17.3
580	485	Morland	543	-7	9.7	2.2	∞
12	6½	Parasmumia	8½	...	...	2.1	...
204	145	Regent Inns	203	...	...	2.8	20.6
1225	753	SA Breweries	1203	-3	...	2.2	20.3
554	503	Scot & New	542	-1	...	4.0	16.4
225	155½	Tauman Cider	166	+3	6.2	4.8	12.6
225	113	Vaux Group	221	...	9.3	4.2	18.0
357	225	Wethrespoon JD	328	...	...	2.1	25.5
574½	435	Whitbread 'A'	560 †	+5	...	4.0	13.7
613	463	Wolvrhmpton D	534	-2	12.6	3.0	∞
515	475	Young 'A'	485 †	...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

140	73	Abbey	140	...	...	1.7	23.0
25½	12½	Alfredgham a	18	...	...	0.7	...
148	87	Allen a	145	...	...	6.4	32.5
120	65	Amec	117	+1	3.0	3.2	21.6
12	4	Anglia Sec	7½	...	...	...	...
206	150	Ashtead a	203	...	...	1.8	34.2
143	101	Attwoods	134 †	...	...	5.0	...
314	180	BPB Ind	313 †	+9	...	3.0	37.4
94	57	Baggeridge Brk	93	...	3.1	4.2	31.3
31	18	Bailey (Geo) Con	28	...	0.8	2.8	...
108	74	Barrett	83	...	1.2	1.9	15.1
36½	32½	Bardon	42	-½	2.0	6.0	20.7
214	94	Barratt Devs	213	+7	4.0	2.3	∞
460	305	Bellway	457 †	+1	12.0	3.3	∞
43	15	Bellwinch	41	...	...	...	...
460	295	Berkeley Gp	460	+7	...	1.6	28.8
116	45	Bett Bros	108 †	-2	...	2.3	13.9
63	36	Blockleys	45	...	1.0	2.3	49.7
255	189	Blue Circle	246	+5	...	4.1	...
295	230	Boot (Henry)	273	...	6.0	2.7	15.3
210	78	Bredero PLC	92	...	4.6	5.2	22.6
131	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	45	Brt Fixings	80	...	1.7	2.7	...
157	99	Bryant	156	+1	...	3.8	31.5
123	53	CALA	123	...	...	3.3	...
300	203	CRH	340	+10	...	1.5	18.7
43	18	Cakebread Hby	30	...	...	...	...
41½	21	Costain	27½	...	...	...	...
150	86½	Countryside	144	...	...	3.6	∞
100	38	Crest Nicholson	97	...	0.0	...	...
112	27	Cussins	102	...	...	1.2	...
7½	1½	Dunnan a	5½	...	...	...	...
25	15	Edmond Hidgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
285	178	Epwin	276	...	7.0	3.2	23.4
59	32	Erith	55	...	0.3	0.8	...
306	252	Eve Groups	488	+8	...	2.8	17.2
6½	3	Explanaa	4½	...	...	...	...
140	97	Freeman Gpa	133	+2	...	4.7	21.2
50	38	Galliford	38	...	...	3.5	...
81	52	Gibbs & Dandy	79	...	...	3.2	...
920	662	Glasgow (JG)	910 †	...	...	1.8	15.8
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	156	...	...	2.6	27.9
51	28	Hewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
398	186	Heywd Wm	398	+8	13.0	4.3	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	110	...	2.5	2.8	...
38	28½	How Gp	28	...	...	3.6	...
21	15	Howard Hidgs	21	...	0.5	3.0	...
78	39	Hsbck Johnsen	71	+2	1.0	1.8	...
19½	12½	Jarvis	13½	...	...	...	...
316	196	Laing (J)	303	...	9.0	3.7	12.1
127½	103	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	120½	...	...	6.6	...
110	55	Ln Clydesdale a	110	...	4.5	5.1	41.4
23	10½	Lovell (J)	15½	+½	...	...	7.0
350	240	Manders	318	+2	9.3	3.7	19.5
183	93	Marley	177	-1	4.2	3.0	51.9
127	80	Marshalls	120	...	...	4.2	...
190	122	Saunders (J)	190	...	...	3.4	18.3
217	96	McAlpine (A)	213	+6	6.5	3.8	36.9
47	23	McCarthy & S	40	+2	0.5	1.6	...
503	272	Meyer Int	388 †	+12	...	2.6	20.4
120	63	Mowlem (J)	125	+1	4.0	4.0	...
165	51	NSM	158	+3	...	...	...
53	48	Needler a	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newman Tnks	157	...	...	3.3	21.0
309	197	Persimmon	298	-2	8.6	3.9	28.4
36	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	...
1725	1237½	Pochins	1550	...	28.0	2.4	21.8
165	80	Prowting	165	+6	3.4	2.6	...
64	1½	Quilligotti a	1½	...	...	...	...
950	535	RMC Gp	920	+5	...	2.8	33.9
117	75½	Ratnr Ltd	82	...	...	4.6	19.4
36	18	Ramsde	23	...	...	...	...
603	402	Redland	595	+6	25.0	5.3	34.6
86	64	Ruskil	80	+1	4.0	5.0	11.8
319	207	Rugby Group	319	+10	6.4	2.5	24.4
73	23	Rvrhld-Rvrs	65	...	...	0.5	...
263	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	3.1	28.2
253	86½	Sheffield Ind	253	+5	...	2.7	62.1
175	82	Sheriff Hidgs	175	...	...	7.0	21.1
66	56	Shorrock	66	...	...	3.0	18.2
240	190	Smart (J)	222	...	...	4.8	16.7
6½	1½	Stanmin	2	...	...	...	...
169	100	Tarmac	166	+1½	5.5	4.1	20.4
137	137	Tay Homes	137	...	...	4.4	...
163	93	Taylor Woodrw	135	+1	1.0	0.9	...
633	433	Tilbury Dougls	623	+5	35.0	5.6	20.3
192	19	Torex Hire	34	...	...	1.5	...
264	168	Travis Perkins	264	+2	8.0	3.0	51.8
90	57	Trocoll Group	88	...	...	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tudor a	21	...	...	1.5	...
58	41	Vibroplant	56 †	...	2.5	3.6	30.9
25	20	Ward Hidgs	20	...	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
475	360	Wates Hldgs	450	...	...	3.5	18.5
47½	6½	Wescoa	20	...	...	...	...
180	90	Westbury	178	-1	3.0	3.5	27.8
12	4½	West Scaffold a	7	...	...	...	...
4	1	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
457½	363	Wilson Bowdn	453	+2	...	2.4	31.9
205	147	Wilson (C)	183	...	3.9	2.7	31.7
194	104	Wimpey G	178	+5	...	3.7	...
47	15	YRM	19	...	0.5	3.3	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

675	463	ADT	578	-1	...	...	...
290	198	Adam & Harvey	250	+2	13.0	6.5	4.6
92	56	Air London a	61	...	...	7.2	10.9
36	37	African Lakes	34	...	2.0	5.7	...
178	93	Amb Sec	130	+3	...	5.8	23.3
194	94	BET Ord	137	-½	...	2.1	5.5
51	28	Bewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
398	186	Heywd Wm	398	+8	13.0	4.3	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	110	...	2.5	2.8	...
38	28½	How Gp	28	...	...	3.6	...
21	15	Howard Hidgs	21	...	0.5	3.0	...
78	39	Hsbck Johnsen	71	+2	1.0	1.8	...
19½	12½	Jarvis	13½	...	...	...	...
316	196	Laing (J)	303	...	9.0	3.7	12.1
127½	103	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	120½	...	...	6.6	...
110	55	Ln Clydesdale a	110	...	4.5	5.1	41.4
23	10½	Lovell (J)	15½	+½	...	...	7.0
350	240	Manders	318	+2	9.3	3.7	19.5
183	93	Marley	177	-1	4.2	3.0	51.9
127	80	Marshalls	120	...	...	4.2	...
190	122	Saunders (J)	190	...	...	3.4	18.3
217	96	McAlpine (A)	213	+6	6.5	3.8	36.9
47	23	McCarthy & S	40	+2	0.5	1.6	...
503	272	Meyer Int	388 †	+12	...	2.6	20.4
120	63	Mowlem (J)	125	+1	4.0	4.0	...
165	51	NSM	158	+3	...	...	...
53	48	Needler a	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newman Tnks	157	...	...	3.3	21.0
309	197	Persimmon	298	-2	8.6	3.9	28.4
36	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	...
1725	1237½	Pochins	1550	...	28.0	2.4	21.8
165	80	Prowting	165	+6	3.4	2.6	...
64	1½	Quilligotti a	1½	...	...	...	...
950	535	RMC Gp	920	+5	...	2.8	33.9
117	75½	Ratnr Ltd	82	...	...	4.6	19.4
36	18	Ramsde	23	...	...	...	...
603	402	Redland	595	+6	25.0	5.3	34.6
86	64	Ruskil	80	+1	4.0	5.0	11.8
319	207	Rugby Group	319	+10	6.4	2.5	24.4
73	23	Rvrhld-Rvrs	65	...	...	0.5	...
263	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	3.1	28.2
253	86½	Sheffield Ind	253	+5	...	2.7	62.1
175	82	Sheriff Hidgs	175	...	...	7.0	21.1
66	56	Shorrock	66	...	...	3.0	18.2
240	190	Smart (J)	222	...	...	4.8	16.7
6½	1½	Stanmin	2	...	...	...	...
169	100	Tarmac	166	+1½	5.5	4.1	20.4
137	137	Tay Homes	137	...	...	4.4	...
163	93	Taylor Woodrw	135	+1	1.0	0.9	...
633	433	Tilbury Dougls	623	+5	35.0	5.6	20.3
192	19	Torex Hire	34	...	...	1.5	...
264	168	Travis Perkins	264	+2	8.0	3.0	51.8
90	57	Trocoll Group	88	...	...	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tudor a	21	...	...	1.5	...
58	41	Vibroplant	56 †	...	2.5	3.6	30.9
25	20	Ward Hidgs	20	...	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
475	360	Wates Hldgs	450	...	...	3.5	18.5
47½	6½	Wescoa	20	...	...	...	...
180	90	Westbury	178	-1	3.0	3.5	27.8
12	4½	West Scaffold a	7	...	...	...	...
4	1	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
457½	363	Wilson Bowdn	453	+2	...	2.4	31.9
205	147	Wilson (C)	183	...	3.9	2.7	31.7
194	104	Wimpey G	178	+5	...	3.7	...
47	15	YRM	19	...	0.5	3.3	...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

248	210	Allied Colloids	230	...	...	2.4	27.1
985	613	Amersham	984	...	...	1.8	34.0
7	1½	Anglo Utd	2	-½	...	5.9	...
£113½	£325	BASF DM	£112½	+½	...	4.0	20.5
301	194	BTP	£137½	...	...	4.0	...
£137½	£101½	Bayer DM50	121	...	6.5	6.7	13.0
178	118	Blagden	118	+1	...	7.8	10.8
185	93	Brent Chemns	183	-2	...	...	...
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	95½	+½	...	22.7	15.3
29	5	Caird Gp	6½	-½	7.2	6.3	16.6
180	126	Canning (W)	168	+5	...	3.9	14.5
608	421	Coumaulds	543	...	...	2.9	19.7
347	228	Croda	323	...	4.6	4.7	9.4
149	121	Doeflex	123	...	...	4.0	20.8
226	175	Ellis & Everard	218	+3	0.8	3.1	16.8
42½	15½	Euro Colour	35	...	...	2.3	17.2
348	259	Halstead (J)	348	+4	...	6.0	15.6
241	150	Hickson	£114½	-50	...	3.2	...
£118	£850	Hoechst	£69	...	...	2.7	15.6
229	169	Holliday Chem	191	-4	...	4.5	...
777	608	ICI	693	+5	19.0	3.6	19.1
698	576	Laporte	695	-2	...	5.1	18.6
230	181	Leigh	48	...	...	...	...
97½	35	MTM	48	...	...	1.5	26.7
2050	1462½	Norsk Hydro	1875	...	...	...	...

DRAPERY, STORES

102	53	Alexon	65	-1	...	5.6	...
87	42	Amber Day	62	...	1.3	2.2	∞
373	257	Argos Plc	366	-1	...	2.4	31.2
25	9½	Ashley Group	11	...	...	2.1	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	85	...	0.1	0.1	...
330	270	Asprey	310	+4	5.2	2.1	21.4
154	94	Austin Reed	150	+2	...	2.1	...
155	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	148	...	...	2.1	14.9
121	94	Bernalls	110	...	1.9	2.2	...
278	132	Bestwerne	140	...	...	1.9	16.8
67	25	Blacks Leis	38	-1	2.2	7.6	...
227	113	Body Shop	212½	+½	...	1.8	27.4
16½	9½	Brown & Jackson	9½	...	0.5	5.7	16.5
434	318	Brown (N)	423	...	...	5.0	11.9
87½	61½	Burton	65½	-1	2.0	4.0	∞
195	126	Cantors	195	+2	4.0	2.6	∞
360	295	Church	334	...	12.5	4.7	29.7
183	97	Clinton Cards	153	...	4.3	3.5	18.9
280½	212	Coats Viyella	269	-1	...	3.5	37.2
112	78	Colourvision a	83	...	5.6	8.4	14.9
187	154	Cory Cassels	157	...	...	3.3	14.6
935	374	Courts Furnish	888	...	5.6	0.8	11.1
155	115	Crown Eye a	115	...	...	3.5	15.3
130	89	Dalry Farm Intl	118	-1	...	3.1	17.3
91½	51½	Dewhirst (J)	91	...	0.8	1.1	29.2
283	189	Dixons Grp	283	-3	...	2.7	...
21	8	ERA Gp	8½	...	...	...	69.7
530	400	Ewin (Williams)	520	...	16.0	3.4	18.2
166	71	Essex Furn	150	...	...	2.9	24.0
275	203	Exam	230 †	...	7.0	3.8	21.1
608	499	Fine Art Dev	554	-2	13.0	3.0	17.9
70	26	Fired Earth 'Ties	47	...	...	2.1	...
623	498	Formfitter	623	...	14.0	2.8	11.3
180	24	French Conn a	116	...	...	...	...
78	43	Gent SR	66	...	...	4.0	20.5
80	73	Goldsmiths Gp	76	-2	0.3	0.5	...
600	334	GUS	580	-7	...	2.5	17.8
40	33	Hampden Grp a	33	...	...	3.0	...
277	30	Harrisons	44	+2	...	...	...
29½	20	Helene Pic	28½	...	2.0	8.5	13.9
89	29	Heritage a	88	...	...	...	...
78	35	Honeysuckle a	66	-1	...	4.3	...
161	63	Jacques Vert	154	...	...	2.4	11.8
524½	496	Kingfisher	735	-8	...	2.4	28.3
85	57	Kwik Wise Gp	76	...	4.0	5.8	15.0
686	495	Liberty	545	...	7.5	1.4	18.8
325	241	Lloyds Chem	317	+1	...	2.8	11.1
452	320	MFI	347	+1	...	3.2	30.0
457	311	Marks Spencer	447½	+½	...	2.3	22.8
580	445	Menzies (John)	566	...	...	3.0	12.5
555	392	Moss Bros	532	...	5.5	3.0	27.2
90	44	Mothercare	88	...	1.0	3.5	21.4
41	15	Oliver (G)	33	...	...	...	...
325	197	Ortlhouse Ind	324	-1	...	3.8	15.7
43	34½	Penrice	34½	...	0.8	2.9	7.2
315	185	Ptr Hldgs	220	-5	5.1	2.9	15.7
69½	30½	Rhino Grpa	61	...	...	...	...
170	120	Rosebys	170	...	...	3.6	20.4
181	135	Sherwood Gp	147	...	...	2.2	13.2
131½	93	Sears	126	-2	...	3.5	...
41½	21	Signet Group	39	...	...	...	14.8
512	400	Smith Wil 'A'	505	+2	...	3.5	16.5
20	4½	Specialeyes a	17	...	...	...	...
237	176	Storehouse	231	+3	...	2.7	22.6
191	148	T & S Stores	149	...	6.0	5.0	11.1
161	71	Tie Rack	147	...	1.0	0.9	34.1
259	160	Time Products	252 †	+1	7.7	4.3	18.0
128	63	Usher (Frank) a	108	...	6.0	6.3	...
47	22	Vendome	36	-2	...	2.2	16.6
300	165	Dxford Inst	285	...	4.6	2.0	20.2
85	48	W.H. Imsm'h	73	...	...	...	...
81½	58	P & P	51	-4	1.5	3.7	27.1
87½	61½	Burton	65½	-1	2.0	4.0	∞
195	126	Cantors	195	+2	4.0	2.6	∞
360	295	Church	334	...	12.5	4.7	29.7
183	97	Clinton Cards	153	...	4.3	3.5	18.9
280½	212	Coats Viyella	269	-1	...	3.5	37.2
112	78	Colourvision a	83	...	5.6	8.4	14.9
187	154	Cory Cassels	157	...	...	3.3	14.6
935	374	Courts Furnish	888	...	5.6	0.8	11.1
155	115	Crown Eye a	115	...	...	3.5	15.3
130	89	Dalry Farm Intl	118	-1	...	3.1	17.3
91½	51½	Dewhirst (J)	91	...	0.8	1.1	29.2
283	189	Dixons Grp	283	-3	...	2.7	...
21	8	ERA Gp	8½	...	...	...	69.7
530	400	Ewin (Williams)	520	...	16.0	3.4	18.2
166	71	Essex Furn	150	...	...	2.9	24.0
275	203	Exam	230 †	...	7.0	3.8	21.1
608	499	Fine Art Dev	554	-2	13.0	3.0	17.9
70	26	Fired Earth 'Ties	47	...	...	2.1	...
623	498	Formfitter	623	...	14.0	2.8	11.3
180	24	French Conn a	116	...	...	...	...
78	43	Gent SR	66	...	...	4.0	20.5
80	73	Goldsmiths Gp	76	-2	0.3	0.5	...
600	334	GUS	580	-7	...	2.5	17.8
40	33	Hampden Grp a	33	...	...	3.0	...
277	30	Harrisons	44	+2	...	...	...
29½	20	Helene Pic	28½	...	2.0	8.5	13.9
89	29	Heritage a	88	...	...	...	...
78	35	Honeysuckle a	66	-1	...	4.3	...
161	63	Jacques Vert	154	...	...	2.4	11.8
524½	496	Kingfisher	735	-8	...	2.4	28.3
85	57	Kwik Wise Gp	76	...	4.0	5.8	15.0
686	495	Liberty	545	...	7.5	1.4	18.8
325	241	Lloyds Chem	317	+1	...	2.8	11.1
452	320	MFI	347	+1	...	3.2	30.0
457	311	Marks Spencer	447½	+½	...	2.3	22.8
580	445	Menzies (John)	566	...	...	3.0	12.5
555	392	Moss Bros	532	...	5.5	3.0	27.2
90	44	Mothercare	88	...	1.0	3.5	21.4
41	15	Oliver (G)	33	...	...	...	...
325	197	Ortlhouse Ind	324	-1	...	3.8	15.7
43	34½	Penrice	34½	...	0.8	2.9	7.2
315	185	Ptr Hldgs	220	-5	5.1	2.9	15.7
69½	30½	Rhino Grpa	61	...	...	...	...
170	120	Rosebys	170	...	...	3.6	20.4
181	135	Sherwood Gp	147	...	...	2.2	13.2
131½	93	Sears	126	-2	...	3.5	...
41½	21	Signet Group	39	...	...		

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
St Helens Rd, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1RZ
0895 239 783
Growth and Amer 166.50 175.20† + 1.10 ...
Growth Equity 243.80 257.90 + 3.50 1.25
Growth and Euro 195.30 205.50 + 6.20 ...
Growth Equ Bal 118.10 122.40 + 5.90 1.22
Growth and Gilt 82.25 84.80 + 0.82 4.45
Growth and Japan 158.90 167.20† - 2.40 ...

AJA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
Equity & Law Hse, Corpn St, Coventry
0203 553 231
General Acc 525.40 559.00 + 4.30 2.21
General Inc 473.20 503.50 + 3.90 2.21
UK Growth Acc 357.90 380.80 + 3.80 2.38
UK Growth Inc 250.60 266.60 + 2.60 2.38
Higher Inc Acc 672.70 715.70 +13.20 3.33
Higher Inc Inc 402.30 428.00 + 7.90 3.33
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc 196.30 208.90 + 2.60 5.52
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc 99.10 105.40 + 1.40 5.52
Nth America 264.10 281.00 - 2.10 ...
Far East 341.40 363.20 - 9.00 ...
Europe 365.30 282.30 + 8.90 0.82
Brit Fxdmnts Acc 102.20 108.80 + 2.10 4.11
Brit Fxdmnts Inc 77.61 82.57 + 1.59 4.11
Global Opps 83.56 88.90† + 0.77 0.01
Balanced Acc 54.22 57.69† + 0.78 2.24
Balanced Inc 53.74 57.18† + 0.78 2.24

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
80 Haldenhurst Rd, Bournemouth 0345 717 373
High Income
Gilts & Fixed Int 130.80 148.20† + 1.50 5.40
High Inc Equity 166.70 177.30 + 0.90 4.44
Worldwide Bond 272.80 289.30† + 0.90 3.63
Capital Growth
American Growth 201.40 - 322.30 - 3.20 .98
Asian Pacific 369.60 393.10 + 28.20 .24
Assets & Earnings 354.03 370.20† + 0.90 1.04
Comdty & Energy 116.30 124.30 + 9.30 .44
1992 Enterprise 90.81 97.12 + 1.63 1.98
Euro Capital Inc 125.10 131.60 + 5.10 .34
General 220.30 243.90 + 2.60 2.23
Japan 112.90 120.70 - 1.00 ...
Mastertrust 136.40 145.80 + 2.90 1.28
US Growth Dist 126.50 134.50 + 1.80 2.13
US Emerging Cos 130.10 139.40 + 3.10 ...
Income & Growth 389.00 413.80† + 3.80 3.17
Ethical 70.52 75.02 + 0.58 2.43
International 109.80 116.80 + 2.70 .43

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
031 220 0733
UK Small Cos 1575.0 1645.0 + 1.00 ...

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
38 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
0800 626 893
Aberdeen Portfolio 61.74 62.98 + 1.15 0.79
Amer Inc & Growth 44.91 47.54 - 0.51 0.66
Cash 50.06 50.06† + 0.04 4.92
European 99.28 105.30 + 3.00 ...
European Income 96.32 102.10 + 2.90 ...
Exempt 996.30 1045.2 + 8.60 3.65
Extra Income 82.55 87.31† + 1.05 4.60
Far East Emg Ecn 117.50 126.60 + 4.40 0.51
Fixed Interest 24.26 25.70† + 0.01 7.13
Fund Inv Tst 167.00 178.30 + 3.00 0.95
Japan 184.30 196.40 - 3.50 ...
Latin American 66.62 70.87 + 2.36 0.71
Pacific 74.46 79.75 + 1.97 0.34
Property Share 72.27 77.15 + 1.19 1.71
UK Emerging Cos 62.00 66.17 + 0.11 1.86
UK Growth 44.97 48.41 + 0.54 2.43
World Growth 74.65 79.68† + 1.70 0.69

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 090 336
UK Equity Income 93.49 99.46 + 0.82 3.37
UK Equity Growth 81.84 87.06 + 0.19 2.71
European 66.19 69.35 + 0.26 0.12
Nth American 66.32 70.55† + 0.55 1.03
Far Eastern 66.55 70.80† + 0.58 0.28
Money 64.94 64.94 + 0.04 4.37

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
25 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 549 3232
British Growth 67.66 72.01 + 0.61 3.52
British Income 68.22 83.21 + 0.53 3.26
Select Portfolio 82.96 88.26 + 0.27 ...

Formerly AEtna

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
101 King's Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0452 305 958
Annity Income 76.37 81.03 + 0.45 2.01
Income Builder Inv 68.19 72.54† + 0.63 2.80

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
IFA dlg: 0793 618 306 Client dlg: 0793 514 514
Balanced Trustee
Growth & Income 345.10 262.00 + 1.30 2.87
Capital 413.10 441.50 + 2.60 1.81
Balanced 689.50 737.00† + 3.00 2.32
Accumulator 1257.0 1343.0 + 8.00 2.81
Income Trusts
American Income 50.13 53.58 - 0.13 3.04
High Income 432.30 462.10 + 3.80 3.42
Equity Income 244.30 261.10 + 2.80 3.31
Fixed Interest 254.80 272.30 + 1.90 7.87
Gov Securities 35.76 37.74 + 0.67 4.74
International Trusts
Amer Spec Sits 136.60 146.00 + 0.60 0.17
European Growth 32.90 34.51 + 1.12 0.43
International 153.80 164.30 + 1.00 0.36
Japan 186.30 198.90 - 1.90 0.01
Pacific 407.20 435.20 +21.10 0.23
Secs of America 427.90 455.20† + 1.60 0.54
Worlde Asset Val 45.47 48.60 + 0.79 0.29
Specialist Trusts
Asset Value 539.10 576.30† + 6.40 2.15
Conv & Gilt 48.76 52.12 + 0.66 3.86
Smaller Cos 166.50 177.90 - 1.22
2nd Smaller Cos 157.90 168.70 - 0.60 1.21
Recovery 137.80 147.30 + 1.98 1.98
Met Min & Cdty 148.10 158.30† + 5.60 0.85
Oseas Earnings 346.70 370.60† + 2.30 2.17

ARKWRIGHT MANAGEMENT
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 398
Growth 134.20 142.80† + 0.60 2.04
Income 75.83 80.68 + 0.72 4.34
European 57.31 60.97† + 1.92 0.90
Recovery 129.00 137.30 - 0.90 1.88

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 526 911
Control Cnl Pens 98.76 102.60 1.45
Poundin Pensi Pens 63.56 65.97 4.00

BSH-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
29 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767
Capital 73.98 78.70 + 0.70 1.97
International 60.75 64.62 + 0.41 0.52

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 223 4242
America 303.20 326.20† + 1.70 ...
Bond 129.50 136.30 + 2.50 5.80
Brit Smlr Cos 90.30 100.30 + 1.40 1.00
Conv & Gen 61.73 65.38 + 0.58 5.31
Energy 423.80 466.10† + 9.00 0.26
Europe 215.70 229.40† + 7.50 0.66
Euro Smlr Cos 94.49 100.50 + 2.59 0.97
Income Cwth 340.90 363.80† + 3.80 4.22
Japan 304.40 323.60† - 7.70 ...
Pacific 119.00 126.60† + 6.80 0.64
UK Smlr Cos 47.66 50.70 - 0.19 1.06

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 499 8673
Brit & Overs 292.50 307.90 + 5.40 1.15
Capital Gwth 116.50 122.60 + 1.50 2.21
Worlde Opps 197.00 207.40 +13.10 0.46

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544
Balanced Trusts
Bnt Inv Fd Inc 351.20 365.90† + 5.40 2.71
European Bd Inc 101.00 104.60 + 1.60 7.14
Exempt 77.66 82.67† + 0.78 3.91
Financial 73.62 80.88† + 1.39 2.36
Gilt 500.00 469.80 + 1.50 2.54
General 275.50 294.70 + 2.40 2.51
Property 243.10 260.00† + 0.70 6.12
Trustee 189.00 202.10 + 2.30 2.30
Income Trusts
Cash Inc 100.80 100.80 + 0.10 4.93
Extra Income 119.40 127.80 + 0.60 6.11
Gilt & Fxd Int 63.29 65.41† + 0.79 7.71
Income 347.30 385.40 + 5.40 3.94
Income Builder 67.44 71.75 + 1.25 6.96
Intl Income 68.82 73.22 + 1.25 2.83
Growth Trusts - UK
Capital 120.20 128.20 + 1.70 2.56
Leisure 115.60 123.00 + 0.50 1.57
Recovery 404.40 436.80 + 4.50 0.69
Smlr Cos Inc 39.68 42.55 + 0.04 2.23
Special Sits 272.90 291.80 + 2.00 1.97
Growth Trusts - Overseas
America 132.10 140.20† + 0.70 0.22
Asian Acc 236.00 251.10 + 2.90 1.45
Aust Inc 147.70 157.10† + 1.80 1.45
Euro Gwth Inc 135.70 143.90 + 4.80 0.44
Japan & Gen Inc 167.00 176.80 - 1.10 ...
Japan Spec Sits 73.06 77.39 - 0.88 ...

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 188, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ
081 658 9802
American Growth 99.04 105.10 - 1.00 0.10
Amer Smlr Cos 131.60 141.30 - 0.20 ...
Cash Trust 90.24 90.24† + 0.02 4.90
Convertibles 59.68 63.75 + 0.31 5.60
Eastern 247.60 309.80 + 24.30 1.60
Equity Income 93.27 99.22 + 0.84 5.00
European Growth 281.40 299.20 +11.10 1.50
Europe 191.50 204.90† + 6.70 1.50
German Growth 75.24 80.08 + 1.61 0.70
Global Bond 71.05 74.96 + 1.06 5.30
Global Growth 126.10 134.70† + 3.10 ...
Japan Growth 194.10 208.20 + 1.40 ...
Japan Smaller 163.60 174.90 - 1.20 ...
Korea Trust 65.32 69.79 + 4.71 1.40
Portfolio 134.10 143.30 + 1.60 3.20
UK Growth 91.76 97.61 + 1.30 2.80

BARRINGTON UNIT TST MGMT LTD
Barrington Hse, Gresham St, London EC2V 7HE
071 726 4000
Barrington Inc 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26
Barrington Cap 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26
Barrington Euro 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26
Barrington Far E 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26
Barrington Glbl 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26
Barrington UK 107.10 114.00 + 0.70 5.26

BARRY JOHNSTON UNIT TST MGRS
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9828
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (FPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 167.18 177.85 + 1.86 4.97
Fixed & Convertible 46.84 49.83 + 0.61 5.70
Monthly Inc Plus 53.22 56.63 + 0.50 7.91
Preference Share 53.02 55.34 + 0.35 6.87
Balanced Funds
High Yield 133.99 142.54 - 1.30 5.76
Managed Fund 68.66 73.04 - 1.17 2.76
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 39.25 41.76 + 0.10 1.97
UK & General 78.34 83.23 + 1.17 2.93
UK Growth 135.41 144.05 + 1.77 1.62
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 177.56 188.89 + 6.81 ...
Far Eastern Grth 137.32 146.09 + 7.85 0.29
Global Bond 87.90 93.41 + 0.61 5.72
Japan Growth 109.72 116.72 + 0.09 ...
North Amer Grth 161.41 171.71 - 1.93 ...
Oriental Growth 85.90 91.38 + 7.14 ...
Worldwide Growth 62.52 66.51 + 0.66 0.25

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lynton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 741 840
Growth Inc 58.16 61.87 + 0.57 2.90
High Income 34.54 36.74 + 0.40 4.40
Japan 31.97 34.01 - 0.76 ...
Smaller Cos Inc 28.86 30.70† - 0.10 2.40
Smaller Cos 30.03 31.94† - 0.12 2.40
North American 31.91 33.94 + 0.20 0.60
European 34.94 37.17 + 0.94 0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 31.38 33.70 + 0.19 4.39

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 804.10 816.30† 3.74

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 090 370
Fellowship Tst 70.22 74.71 + 1.11 1.63
Income 240.60 256.00 + 4.50 3.54
Smaller Cos 136.40 145.20 - 0.60 0.98
Inv Portfolio 76.78 81.69 + 1.64 1.90
High Income Port 68.88 73.28 + 1.35 3.90

DIMENSIONAL UNIT TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 628 0077
Euro Small Cos 1382.2 1410.2† +25.20 ...
Japan Small Cos 1038.1 1058.9† -57.40 ...
UK Small Cos 1631.0 1703.3 - 3.90 ...
US Small Cos 1592.4 1639.1† - 0.70 ...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819
Disc Inc 182.60 192.20† + 3.90 2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2900
European Gwth 241.50 255.30 + 0.80 1.18
New Asia 219.60 236.40 +13.60 0.33
Japan Growth 113.90 121.10 - 0.90 ...
Jap Smlr Co 463.40 491.90 - 8.70 ...
Nth Amer 241.70 256.00 + 0.60 0.95
Shtfld Asia Pac Mr 121.20 128.70 + 6.30 0.48
UK Inc & Grth 219.40 234.30 + 3.60 3.46

EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MGRS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555
UK Balanced Inc 138.70 147.60† + 2.20 2.35
UK High Inc Inc 153.30 163.10† + 2.30 5.43
UK Fxd & FI Inc 64.09 67.95† + 0.62 6.48
Sovrmnnt Opps 79.50 84.57 + 0.99 1.45

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanoverfield Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526
American 118.50 125.90† - 1.00 0.40
Convertibles 23.31 24.77 + 0.15 7.87
Equity Income 136.00 144.50† + 2.00 3.46
EuroFund 43.76 46.31 + 1.33 0.86
Financial 49.04 53.06 + 0.94 2.28
Growth & Inc 279.30 294.30 + 4.30 2.95
High Dist 161.20 171.30† + 3.00 4.38
International 373.10 396.40 + 7.90 0.82
Intl Income 96.19 102.70 + 2.00 2.53
Latin American 42.85 45.53 + 1.78 0.27
Pacific 85.37 90.71 + 5.60 0.33
Tokyo 195.60 207.60 - 3.10 ...
UK Smaller Cos 222.10 236.00 + 0.90 1.00

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70535
Elcon Trust 205.50 219.70

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7261
Endurance Fd 197.70 210.30 + 5.30 0.44

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 480
European 74.39 78.31 + 3.38 1.67
Far Eastern 311.35 327.74 +10.39 1.40
High Income 134.37 141.44† + 2.07 4.37
Intnl Growth 115.10 121.16 + 4.77 1.11
North American 115.43 121.50 + 0.15 0.93
Pelican 118.88 128.14 + 2.10 3.00
Smaller Cos 70.79 74.52† - 1.21 2.01
Special Sits 87.40 92.00 + 0.55 1.95
Tst of Inv Tsts 178.41 187.80 + 3.18 1.99

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Smaller Cos Inc 188.70 196.56 + 0.78 1.77
Smaller Cos Acc 326.68 340.29 + 1.34 1.77
Recovery 46.03 47.95† - 0.04 2.27

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144
Balanced 119.91 127.40† + 1.11 4.91
Capital Growth 79.46 85.15 + 1.57 ...
Fd of Inv Tsts 43.31 46.20 + 1.53 0.24
High Income 49.47 52.77 + 0.96 8.30
Warrant 99.15 64.20 + 2.85 ...
Euro Preference 57.46 59.79† + 0.25 ...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
16 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 707
Family Asset Tst 72.96 77.61 2.79
Family Income Tst 50.85 54.09† 6.20
Family Trust 78.62 83.64 1.66
United Charities 238.30 253.50† 3.69

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 4.90
Stabiliser Growth Range
Controlled Risk UK 25.18 26.53 - 0.05 3.13
-do- Europe 24.76 26.09 + 0.12 4.92
-do- America 23.68 24.96 - 0.25 0.55
-do- Asia Japan 28.15 29.66 - 0.24 0.77
Bond Funds
Gilt & Fxd Int 31.76 32.07† + 0.24 6.24
Intl Bond 32.68 34.13 + 0.40 4.92
Income Funds
High Income 28.05 29.52† + 0.24 4.86
Income Plus 122.10 129.90† + 0.20 3.37
Amer Eq Inc 47.44 50.33 - 0.11 0.71
European Income 42.04 44.71 + 1.32 2.61
Far East Inc 65.51 70.19† + 1.63 2.38
Global Convertible 23.93 25.53 + 0.21 2.30
Equity Funds
ASEAN 68.25 72.81 + 4.76 ...
American 229.40 243.20† + 1.40 ...
Amer Spec Sits 107.90 115.10 + 0.60 ...
Japan Smaller Cos 36.60 30.05 - 0.37 ...
European 150.60 160.20 + 3.60 ...

FIRST CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Beckman Intl 91.83 97.06 + 1.67 1.72
Beck Bio-Tech 41.61 44.27† - 1.88 ...
Acorn Ethical Tst 1552.30 1727.6 - 7.74 1.15
City Fin Assets 69.43 73.08 + 2.32 1.68
City Fin America 81.42 85.71 - 1.17 ...
City Fin Intl 73.77 77.68† - 1.13 0.50
City Fin Japan 152.70 160.76 - 3.18 ...
Friars Hse Inc 266.46 280.48 + 4.84 2.32
Friars Hse Inc 204.16 216.04† +10.31 4.86
Buckley Wrld Grth 132.65 141.12 + 4.26 0.71
Fairmnt Cap Gth 137.90 145.16† + 2.62 ...
-do- Inc & Gth 115.96 122.08† + 1.10 1.62

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0992 412 144
Emerging Markets 54.01 57.31 + 1.05 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393
American Gwth 56.90 61.35 - 0.75 ...
Asian Mngd Gwth 36.61 39.58 - 0.26 0.12
Dragon Growth 77.11 82.47 + 5.55 0.37
Equity High Inc 85.16 90.36† + 1.12 3.45
European Gwth 47.84 50.76 + 1.45 1.08
Evergreen 29.09 31.11 - 0.15 ...
General Equity 84.09 89.20 + 0.75 2.13
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 28.03 29.45 - 0.31 7.89
Japan Growth 44.25 47.76 - 0.25 ...
Pedigree Gwth 49.81 53.88 + 0.23 2.07
Ped Sm Cos Inc 30.41 32.27† - 0.14 0.89
Retirement Inc 26.89 28.91 + 0.25 5.18

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Colonial Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000
Capital 65.43 69.98 + 0.75 2.74
Income 62.84 67.21 + 0.88 3.70

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9828
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (FPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 167.18 177.85 + 1.86 4.97
Fixed & Convertible 46.84 49.83 + 0.61 5.70
Monthly Inc Plus 53.22 56.63 + 0.50 7.91
Preference Share 53.02 55.34 + 0.35 6.87
Balanced Funds
High Yield 133.99 142.54 - 1.30 5.76
Managed Fund 68.66 73.04 - 1.17 2.76
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 39.25 41.76 + 0.10 1.97
UK & General 78.34 83.23 + 1.17 2.93
UK Growth 135.41 144.05 + 1.77 1.62
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 177.56 188.89 + 6.81 ...
Far Eastern Grth 137.32 146.09 + 7.85 0.29
Global Bond 87.90 93.41 + 0.61 5.72
Japan Growth 109.72 116.72 + 0.09 ...
North Amer Grth 161.41 171.71 - 1.93 ...
Oriental Growth 85.90 91.38 + 7.14 ...
Worldwide Growth 62.52 66.51 + 0.66 0.25

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lynton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 741 840
Growth Inc 58.16 61.87 + 0.57 2.90
High Income 34.54 36.74 + 0.40 4.40
Japan 31.97 34.01 - 0.76 ...
Smaller Cos Inc 28.86 30.70† - 0.10 2.40
Smaller Cos 30.03 31.94† - 0.12 2.40
North American 31.91 33.94 + 0.20 0.60
European 34.94 37.17 + 0.94 0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 31.38 33.70 + 0.19 4.39

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3ND 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 804.10 816.30† 3.74

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 090 370
Fellowship Tst 70.22 74.71 + 1.11 1.63
Income 240.60 256.00 + 4.50 3.54
Smaller Cos 136.40 145.20 - 0.60 0.98
Inv Portfolio 76.78 81.69 + 1.64 1.90
High Income Port 68.88 73.28 + 1.35 3.90

DIMENSIONAL UNIT TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 628 0077
Euro Small Cos 1382.2 1410.2† +25.20 ...
Japan Small Cos 1038.1 1058.9† -57.40 ...
UK Small Cos 1631.0 1703.3 - 3.90 ...
US Small Cos 1592.4 1639.1† - 0.70 ...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819
Disc Inc 182.60 192.20† + 3.90 2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2900
European Gwth 241.50 255.30 + 0.80 1.18
New Asia 219.60 236.40 +13.60 0.33
Japan Growth 113.90 121.10 - 0.90 ...
Jap Smlr Co 463.40 491.90 - 8.70 ...
Nth Amer 241.70 256.00 + 0.60 0.95
Shtfld Asia Pac Mr 121.20 128.70 + 6.30 0.48
UK Inc & Grth 219.40 234.30 + 3.60 3.46

EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MGRS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555
UK Balanced Inc 138.70 147.60† + 2.20 2.35
UK High Inc Inc 153.30 163.10† + 2.30 5.43
UK Fxd & FI Inc 64.09 67.95† + 0.62 6.48
Sovrmnnt Opps 79.50 84.57 + 0.99 1.45

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanoverfield Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526
American 118.50 125.90† - 1.00 0.40
Convertibles 23.31 24.77 + 0.15 7.87
Equity Income 136.00 144.50† + 2.00 3.46
EuroFund 43.76 46.31 + 1.33 0.86
Financial 49.04 53.06 + 0.94 2.28
Growth & Inc 279.30 294.30 + 4.30 2.95
High Dist 161.20 171.30† + 3.00 4.38
International 373.10 396.40 + 7.90 0.82
Intl Income 96.19 102.70 + 2.00 2.53
Latin American 42.85 45.53 + 1.78 0.27
Pacific 85.37 90.71 + 5.60 0.33
Tokyo 195.60 207.60 - 3.10 ...
UK Smaller Cos 222.10 236.00 + 0.90 1.00

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70535
Elcon Trust 205.50 219.70

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7261
Endurance Fd 197.70 210.30 + 5.30 0.44

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 480
European 74.39 78.31 + 3.38 1.67
Far Eastern 311.35 327.74 +10.39 1.40
High Income 134.37 141.44† + 2.07 4.37
Intnl Growth 115.10 121.16 + 4.77 1.11
North American 115.43 121.50 + 0.15 0.93
Pelican 118.88 128.14 + 2.10 3.00
Smaller Cos 70.79 74.52† - 1.21 2.01
Special Sits 87.40 92.00 + 0.55 1.95
Tst of Inv Tsts 178.41 187.80 + 3.18 1.99

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Smaller Cos Inc 188.70 196.56 + 0.78 1.77
Smaller Cos Acc 326.68 340.29 + 1.34 1.77
Recovery 46.03 47.95† - 0.04 2.27

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144
Balanced 119.91 127.40† + 1.11 4.91
Capital Growth 79.46 85.15 + 1.57 ...
Fd of Inv Tsts 43.31 46.20 + 1.53 0.24
High Income 49.47 52.77 + 0.96 8.30
Warrant 99.15 64.20 + 2.85 ...
Euro Preference 57.46 59.79† + 0.25 ...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
16 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 707
Family Asset Tst 72.96 77.61 2.79
Family Income Tst 50.85 54.09† 6.20
Family Trust 78.62 83.64 1.66
United Charities 238.30 253.50† 3.69

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 4.90
Stabiliser Growth Range
Controlled Risk UK 25.18 26.53 - 0.05 3.13
-do- Europe 24.76 26.09 + 0.12 4.92
-do- America 23.68 24.96 - 0.25 0.55
-do- Asia Japan 28.15 29.66 - 0.24 0.77
Bond Funds
Gilt & Fxd Int 31.76 32.07† + 0.24 6.24
Intl Bond 32.68 34.13 + 0.40 4.92
Income Funds
High Income 28.05 29.52† + 0.24 4.86
Income Plus 122.10 129.90† + 0.20 3.37
Amer Eq Inc 47.44 50.33 - 0.11 0.71
European Income 42.04 44.71 + 1.32 2.61
Far East Inc 65.51 70.19† + 1.63 2.38
Global Convertible 23.93 25.53 + 0.21 2.30
Equity Funds
ASEAN 68.25 72.81 + 4.76 ...
American 229.40 243.20† + 1.40 ...
Amer Spec Sits 107.90 115.10 + 0.60 ...
Japan Smaller Cos 36.60 30.05 - 0.37 ...
European 150.60 160.20 + 3.60 ...

FIRST CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Beckman Intl 91.83 97.06 + 1.67 1.72
Beck Bio-Tech 41.61 44.27† - 1.88 ...
Acorn Ethical Tst 1552.30 1727.6 - 7.74 1.15
City Fin Assets 69.43 73.08 + 2.32 1.68
City Fin America 81.42 85.71 - 1.17 ...
City Fin Intl 73.77 77.68† - 1.13 0.50
City Fin Japan 152.70 160.76 - 3.18 ...
Friars Hse Inc 266.46 280.48 + 4.84 2.32
Friars Hse Inc 204.16 216.04† +10.31 4.86
Buckley Wrld Grth 132.65 141.12 + 4.26 0.71
Fairmnt Cap Gth 137.90 145.16† + 2.62 ...
-do- Inc & Gth 115.96 122.08† + 1.10 1.62

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0992 412 144
Emerging Markets 54.01 57.31 + 1.05 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393
American Gwth 56.90 61.35 - 0.75 ...
Asian Mngd Gwth 36.61 39.58 - 0.26 0.12
Dragon Growth 77.11 82.47 + 5.55 0.37
Equity High Inc 85.16 90.36† + 1.12 3.45
European Gwth 47.84 50.76 + 1.45 1.08
Evergreen 29.09 31.11 - 0.15 ...
General Equity 84.09 89.20 + 0.75 2.13
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 28.03 29.45 - 0.31 7.89
Japan Growth 44.25 47.76 - 0.25 ...
Pedigree Gwth 49.81 53.88 + 0.23 2.07
Ped Sm Cos Inc 30.41 32.27† - 0.14 0.89
Retirement Inc 26.89 28.91 + 0.25 5.18

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Colonial Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000
Capital 65.43 69.98 + 0.75 2.74
Income 62.84 67.21 + 0.88 3.70

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9828
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (FPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 167.18 177.85 + 1.86 4.97
Fixed & Convertible 46.84 49.83 + 0.61 5.70
Monthly Inc Plus 53.22 56.63 + 0.50 7.91
Preference Share 53.02 55.34 + 0.35 6.87
Balanced Funds
High Yield 133.99 142.54 - 1.30 5.76
Managed Fund 68.66 73.04 - 1.17 2.76
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 39.25 41.76 + 0.10 1.97
UK & General 78.34 83.23 + 1.17 2.93
UK Growth 135.41 144.05 + 1.77 1.62
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 177.56 188.89 + 6.81 ...
Far Eastern Grth 137.32 146.09 + 7.85 0.29
Global Bond 87.90 93.41 + 0.61 5.72
Japan Growth 109.72 116.72 + 0.09 ...
North Amer Grth 161.41 171.71 - 1.93 ...
Oriental Growth 85.90 91.38 + 7.14 ...
Worldwide Growth 62.52 66.51 + 0.66 0.25

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lynton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 741 840
Growth Inc 58.16 61.87 + 0.57 2.90
High Income 34.54 36.74 + 0.40 4.40
Japan 31.97 34.01 - 0.76 ...
Smaller Cos Inc 28.86 30.70† - 0.10 2.40
Smaller Cos 30.03 31.94† - 0.12 2.40
North American 31.91 33.94 + 0.20 0.60
European 34.94 37.17 + 0.94 0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 31.38 33.70 + 0.19 4.39

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3ND 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 804.10 816.30† 3.74

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 090 370
Fellowship Tst 70.22 74.71 + 1.11 1.63
Income 240.60 256.00 + 4.50 3.54
Smaller Cos 136.40 145.20 - 0.60 0.98
Inv Portfolio 76.78 81.69 + 1.64 1.90
High Income Port 68.88 73.28 + 1.35 3.90

DIMENSIONAL UNIT TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 628 0077
Euro Small Cos 1382.2 1410.2† +25.20 ...
Japan Small Cos 1038.1 1058.9† -57.40 ...
UK Small Cos 1631.0 1703.3 - 3.90 ...
US Small Cos 1592.4 1639.1† - 0.70 ...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819
Disc Inc 182.60 192.20† + 3.90 2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2900
European Gwth 241.50 255.30 + 0.80 1.18
New Asia 219.60 236.40 +13.60 0.33
Japan Growth 113.90 121.10 - 0.90 ...
Jap Smlr Co 463.40 491.90 - 8.70 ...
Nth Amer 241.70 256.00 + 0.60 0.95
Shtfld Asia Pac Mr 121.20 128.70 + 6.30 0.48
UK Inc & Grth 219.40 234.30 + 3.60 3.46

EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MGRS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555
UK Balanced Inc 138.70 147.60† + 2.20 2.35
UK High Inc Inc 153.30 163.10† + 2.30 5.43
UK Fxd & FI Inc 64.09 67.95† + 0.62 6.48
Sovrmnnt Opps 79.50 84.57 + 0.99 1.45

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanoverfield Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526
American 118.50 125.90† - 1.00 0.40
Convertibles 23.31 24.77 + 0.15 7.87
Equity Income 136.00 144.50† + 2.00 3.46
EuroFund 43.76 46.31 + 1.33 0.86
Financial 49.04 53.06 + 0.94 2.28
Growth & Inc 279.30 294.30 + 4.30 2.95
High Dist 161.20 171.30† + 3.00 4.38
International 373.10 396.40 + 7.90 0.82
Intl Income 96.19 102.70 + 2.00 2.53
Latin American 42.85 45.53 + 1.78 0.27
Pacific 85.37 90.71 + 5.60 0.33
Tokyo 195.60 207.60 - 3.10 ...
UK Smaller Cos 222.10 236.00 + 0.90 1.00

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise

Courage league reaches halfway stage

Bath's push towards title overshadowed by gouging incident

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ACCUSATIONS of foul play have removed the gloss from Bath's weekend, when they had hoped to celebrate a victory over lowly London Irish as well confirming sponsorship plans for their projected new stand. Both may still happen, but the aftermath of the victory over Harlequins last weekend has left a sour taste.

Bath officials were waiting yesterday for a video depicting an incident of eye-gouging in a match said to have included other unsavoury deeds. "We have been asked to look at a video and comment on it," John Quin, the Bath secretary, said after revelations in *Rugby World* magazine that Troy Coker, Harlequins' Australian lock, suffered eye-gouging, Rob Glenister a bitten finger and other players squeezed testicles.

"We have a very good relationship with Harlequins and we want to get this cleared up," Quin added. "Our record stands as high as any club and our boys come under a fair amount of intimidation themselves, but we don't condone misconduct." The accusations follow an incident in Wales last week when Andy Moore, the Cardiff scrum half, had to go to hospital after an eye-gouging in the match against Newbridge.

Jamie Salmon, the Harlequins general manager, said it was easy to detect the gouging and who was responsible. Ironically, a rib injury has removed Coker from the league match at Gloucester today, while injury and illness account for six other first-choice forwards. Will Carling, the England captain, has yet to recover from influenza, which will leave Gloucester optimistic about maintaining their recent improved form.

Indeed, few clubs can offer their optimum XVs in the Courage Clubs Championship programme today — the halfway point of the season. It is a testing time of year, when the strength in depth of playing squads is examined in full, as is the resolution of coaches, who must be tempted to field players they know are not fully fit in the hectic pursuit of league points.

Bath themselves, league champions for the last three seasons, still lead the field, but are short of five players, among them Stuart Barnes, whose knee has succumbed. He is replaced at stand-off half by the versatile Mike Catt. Since Bath's next two fixtures pit them against Wasps, in the cup, and Toulouse, three days before Christmas, it is all too easy to understand why players say enough is enough, but Darren Crompton (prop) and Gareth Adams (flanker) will be delighted to make their full league debuts.

FIRST DIVISION

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	8	7	0	1	204	88	14
Leicster	8	6	0	2	150	96	12
Wasps	7	4	1	2	135	125	9
Harlequins	8	4	0	4	139	101	8
Orrell	8	4	0	4	137	124	8
Bristol	8	4	0	4	131	126	8
Northampton	8	3	0	5	127	145	6

Wasps are more fortunate. Chris Oti and Damian Hopley return to the back division which faces Orrell and Chris Wilkins plays in the back row for Mike White, who is unavailable. Victory would set Wasps up nicely for their cup match as well as sustaining their pursuit of Bath and Leicester in the league.

Northampton are as badly affected as Bath for their visit to Newcastle Gosforth. Like Harlequins, they can offer a promising back division, including Paul Grayson restored at stand-off half where John Steele is unavailable. This has been a difficult season for Grayson whose highs include seven penalty goals for the North against the All Blacks and lows his exclusion from Northampton's league game lase Saturday, but he is learning rapidly.

However, the Saints' pack is woefully under strength. "We have been wanting to play the game among the backs, but the forward pack has not been right," Glenn Ross, the Northampton coach, said. "We are struggling to come to terms with any sort of game at the moment, but even though we have lost four games in succession, none have been heavy defeats. The middle of the table is so congested that a win or a loss can move you several places up or down and I'm looking forward to the remainder of the season."

If you can say that only two leading players are missing, as Leicester can going into their game with Bristol, clearly you are doing well: Rory Underwood remains at centre because of the long-term knee injury to Ian Bates, but John Liley's hamstring injury seems more deep-seated than originally thought and Wayne Kilford resumes at full back.

Bristol, who trail 4-2 in the league series with the Tigers, will miss Andy Blackmore (injured) and Craig Barrow (dropped), but have Simon Shaw back at lock and the club's new coaching co-ordinator, Brian Hanlon, is eager to see him against Matt Poole and Martin Johnson. Shaw, 6ft 9in and only 20, has impressed this season in a Bristol side with the cushion of four league wins behind them: the overall history of games between the clubs is remarkably even — 70 wins for Bristol, 71 for Leicester.

MIKE BRETT



Grayson regains the Northampton No 10 jersey at Newcastle Gosforth today

Sense of unfinished business in rugby series

BY ALAN LORIMER

THE most disappointing aspect of the matches between the Scottish districts and the Irish provinces is the lack of any real championship outcome. Glasgow, for example, beat Munster last week, but because of the abbreviated nature of the series, we shall never know how they would have fared against Ulster, the winners against South.

Douglas Morgan, the Scotland coach, said he would prefer to see it expand into a full round-robin championship, even at the expense of Scotland's internal district competition.

"In a small country like Scotland, the leading players know one another and therefore it is not really very different when they play against each other at district level," he said. "The Irish provinces give us different opposition."

Honours are even after the first round of the series. Ulster and Connacht had wins over South and North and Midlands respectively while Edinburgh and Glasgow beat Leinster and Munster.

In today's second and final round of matches, Leinster travel to the Borders to play South of Scotland in Melrose while Edinburgh are at home to Ulster. Glasgow face Connact in Galway and North and Midlands take on Munster in Cork.

South, without Doddie Weir and Derek Turnbull, who both sustained rib injuries in Belfast last weekend, and also missing Craig Chalmers and Gregor Townsend, will be hard-pressed to hold Leinster.

Colin Hynd, of Jed-Forest, has come in for Weir, while Turnbull's place on the blindside flank goes to Carl Hogg. Adam Roxburgh, who played for Scotland A against Spain last season, returns at No 8 for what will be an important test for the talented Kelso back-row forward.

Graham Shiel plays at stand-off, the position that perhaps offers him a greater future than inside centre. Today's game will give Shiel and Bryan Redpath, his half-back partner, a further chance to practise together before they play for Scotland A next weekend against Italy.

The presence of Gavin Hastings, recovered from a hand injury, should inspire Edinburgh. Ulster are unlikely to be presented with the same scoring opportunities as they were in their 44-26 win over South at Ravenhill. Edinburgh, however, will have noted the attacking qualities of players like Mark McCall, the Bangor centre and Colin Wilkinson, the Malone full back.

Stourport keen to avenge league loss to Havant

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

STOURPORT meet Havant in the fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup at Kidderminster tomorrow, eager to avenge their 1-0 defeat in October when a late goal by Calum Giles decided an even match in the Pizza Express National Hockey League at Birmingham University.

After defeating Southgate 3-1 in the league last week, Stourport have grown in confidence, although they will be without Richard Tattershaw, who has a groin strain.

However, Colin Jones, the manager, said: "It is good for us that David Knott has begun to score goals." He scored twice against Southgate.

Havant will be without Robert Hill, who has withdrawn for personal and business reasons from the cup game and today's league match against Bromley. Jimmy Lewis will probably keep goal against Bromley and give way to Sean Rowlands tomorrow.

East Grinstead, whose higher work-rate enabled them to beat Hounslow 3-2 last Sunday, visit Teddington for an important league match today with their faith pinned on Richard Gibson. Terry Head, the team manager, said: "Give him a chance inside the circle and he will take it." Teddington will be at full strength.

In the cup matches tomorrow, East Grinstead are at home to Edgbaston, while Teddington to go Picketts Lock, Edmonton, to play Crostyx, the non-league team that put Richmond out of the competition in the third round.

Canterbury, who secured their first victory in the league last week, may feel the backlash of Hounslow's recent defeat when they meet the champions at Chiswick. Hounslow are at full strength today and for tomorrow's away cup match against Old Kingstonians.

The Hockey Association has granted a request by Old Loughtonians for a postponement of their league match against Southgate today and cup-tie against Portsmouth tomorrow because of illness and injury.

Southgate, however, will have the benefit of a home cup game against York tomorrow.

Welton travel all the way from Hull to meet Surbiton, leaders of the second division, in the cup tomorrow. Surbiton, who have scored 25 goals and conceded six in nine matches, will have to prove their worth against the first division club.

Llanelli will need to stifle Clement's exuberance

BY DAVID HANDS

THE all-round quality of Llanelli's game took them to a league and cup double last season, but their Scarlet jerseys this season reflect a measure of embarrassment which will be increased should Swansea leave Stradey Park today with two Heineken League points.

On few occasions have Llanelli demonstrated their traditional style and panache. It is significant that they have been unsettled at half back, although Colin Stephens is now said to have rejected thoughts of leaving and returns against Aled Williams, another contender for the national No 10 shirt.

But Swansea admit that it is a stale time of year with few clubs showing much consistency: "We had a good game against Cardiff, Neath played well against us but there is a lack of 'direction," Roger Blyth, the Swansea chairman of selectors, said.

"I remain a huge advocate of an Anglo-Welsh league. I know many of the English say that we need them more than they need us, but I believe we need each other. The quality of rugby in both countries is a bit flat."

Swansea, without Scott Gibbs for the rest of the season and Stuart Davies, their captain, for the next six weeks, will be led from the back against Llanelli by Tony Clement, whose liberated play was such an attractive feature of the Barbarians-New Zealand match a week ago.

Paul Arnold moves to No 8 in the absence of Stuart Davies and his injured namesake, Ian. That will place Arnold in direct opposition to Scott Quinnell, the rising star of Welsh rugby, although Llanelli will be without Emyr Lewis and Mark Perego, internationals both. Swansea are five points clear of the first-division pack. In the second division nine points separate Treorchy from second-placed Abertillery and it falls to Llandovery today to try and stop Treorchy extending their unbeaten league run to 24.

Cardiff will not be able to include John Wakeford, their latest recruit, against Dunvant but he will be eligible for next Saturday's fourth-round Swalec Cup match. Wakeford won two caps at lock for Wales in 1988 and hopes the move from South Wales Police will rejuvenate his international prospects.

☐ Yorkshire and Gloucestershire contest the final of the colts county championship at Twickenham today, Yorkshire having ousted Somerset, the holders, in the semi-finals a fortnight ago. Gloucestershire, who beat Kent, move Rob Fidler from his England Schools position of lock to No 8, while Yorkshire introduce another Sleightholme, Andrew (younger brother of Jon, the England under-21 player) to the wing.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Aston Villa v Wimbledon
Chelsea v Ipswich
Liverpool v Swindon
Manchester City v Tottenham
Newcastle v Manchester Utd (all ticket)
Oldham v Blackburn (all ticket)
Sheffield Utd v Everton
Southampton v QPR
West Ham v Coventry

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	19	15	3	1	39	15	48
Leeds	19	10	6	3	33	21	36
Blackburn	18	9	5	4	24	16	32
Newcastle	18	9	4	5	34	18	31
Arsenal	19	8	7	4	18	11	31
Aston Villa	19	8	7	4	28	19	31
Liverpool	18	9	2	7	25	21	29
Norwich	17	7	7	3	27	18	28
QPR	19	8	4	7	33	28	28
West Ham	19	7	5	7	15	18	26
Ipswich	19	6	7	6	17	22	25
Sheff Wed	19	5	9	5	32	28	24
Everton	19	7	3	9	20	24	24
Tottenham	19	5	8	6	24	21	23
Coventry	18	5	8	5	18	20	23
Wimbledon	18	5	7	6	22	25	22
Man City	19	4	7	8	19	23	19
Oldham	19	4	6	9	14	29	18
Sheff Utd	19	3	7	9	18	31	16
Chelsea	18	3	5	10	11	21	14
Southampton	19	4	2	13	18	30	14
Swindon	19	1	7	11	15	40	10

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Barnsley v Peterborough
Crystal Palace v Birmingham
Leicester v Bristol City
Luton v Tranmere
Notts County v Millwall
Oxford Utd v Bolton
Southend v West Brom
Stoke v Middlesbrough
Wolverhampton v Watford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Charlton	19	11	5	3	25	14	38
Tranmere	20	11	4	5	33	22	37
Crystal Palace	19	10	4	5	36	22	34
Southend	19	10	4	5	34	22	34
Millwall	20	9	6	5	27	25	33
Leicester	19	9	5	5	28	18	32
Portsmouth	20	8	7	5	29	28	31
Derby	19	9	3	7	31	32	30
Stoke	19	9	3	7	29	31	30
Bristol City	20	8	6	6	25	21	30
Notts County	19	8	5	6	29	25	29
Northn Forest	19	8	5	6	29	26	29
Notts County	19	8	2	9	26	31	26
Wrhampton	19	5	10	4	31	23	25
Middlesbrough	18	6	6	6	25	20	24
Bolton	19	6	6	7	25	26	24
Grimsby	19	4	9	6	24	22	21
West Brom	18	5	5	8	29	31	20
Luton	19	6	2	11	23	27	20
Birmingham	19	5	5	9	19	28	20
Sunderland	19	6	2	11	19	30	20
Oxford Utd	19	5	4	10	24	35	19
Watford	19	5	4	10	24	37	19
Barnsley	20	4	5	11	25	39	17
Peterborough	18	3	6	9	16	26	15

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield Utd v Ossett Town; Denaby Utd v Pontefract Col; Glasshoughton Welfare v North Ferriby Utd; Liversedge v Winterton Rangers; Ossett Albion v Armthorpe Welfare; Pickering Town v Hucknall Town; Sheffield v Eccleshill Utd.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Porthmadog, Caersws v Ebbw Vale; Haverfordwest v Connah's Quay; Maesteg Park v Llanelli; Mold v Conwy; Newtown v Cwmbran.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Barry Town v Holywell, Briton Ferry v Flint Town, Porthcawl v Inter Cardiff (2.0); Ton Pentre v Bangor (2.30).

Second division

Barnet v Port Vale
Bradford v Bournemouth
Brentford v Blackpool
Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient
Burnley v Reading
Cambridge United v Stockport County
Cardiff v Fulham
Hartlepool v Brighton
Huddersfield v Rotherham
Plymouth v Hull
Wrexham v Swansea
York v Exeter

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	18	12	4	2	43	21	40
Stockport	18	12	3	3	34	15	39
Bristol Rovers	18	10	4	4	25	17	34
Blackpool	19	10	3	6	35	26	33
Burnley	18	10	2	6	32	23	32
Plymouth	18	9	4	5	31	21	31
Port Vale	18	9	4	5	34	21	31
Hull	18	9	3	6	32	29	30
Brentford	18	7	6	5	19	16	27
Bournemouth	17	7	5	5	20	19	26
Bradford	18	7	4	7	30	29	25
Leyton Orient	18	7	4	7	22	26	25
Exeter	18	6	6	6	30	34	24
Wrexham	18	6	6	6	28	29	24
Cambridge Utd	18	6	5	7	25	27	23
Swansea	18	6	5	7	21	29	23
York	18	6	4	8	21	21	22
Rotherham	18	4	6	8	23	31	18
Cardiff	17	3	8	6	26	31	17
Huddersfield	18	4	5	9	17	27	17
Hartlepool	19	4	4	11	16	25	16
Fulham	18	4	3	11	19	28	15
Brighton	18	3	6	9	15	30	15
Barnet	18	2	2	14	16	41	8

Third division

Bury v Scunthorpe
Carlisle v Doncaster
Chester v Wycombe
Colchester v Crewe
Darlington v Lincoln
Gillingham v Rochdale
Hereford v Chesterfield P
Mansfield v Northampton
Preston North End v Scarborough
Walsall v Shrewsbury
Wigan v Torquay

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	17	11	2	4	41	27	35
Crewe	17	10	4	3	34	22	34
Walsall	17	9	5	3	24	15	32
Wycombe	17	8	7	2	31	23	31
Chester	17	9	2	6	28	17	29
Scunthorpe	17	7	6	4	25	13	27
Shrewsbury	17	7	5	5	28	24	26
Doncaster	17	8	2	7	20	20	26
Rochdale	17	7	4	6	28	18	25
Lincoln	17	7	4	6	27	30	25
Torquay	17	5	9	3	29	27	24
Colchester	17	7	2	8	33	40	23
Chesterfield	17	7	2	8	23	29	23
Bury	17	6	4	7	28	27	22
Mansfield	17	6	4	7	21	29	22
Gillingham	17	5	6	6	21	23	21
Carlisle	17	4	7	6	21	18	19
Scarborough	17	5	2	10	19	29	17
Wigan	17	4	4	9	25	35	16
Hereford	17	4	3	10	27	40	15
Darlington	17	2	5	10	19	30	11
Northampton	17	2	5	10	18	34	11

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Welling
Halifax v Northwich
Kettering v Gateshead
Kidderminster v Dover
Macclesfield v Stalybridge
Merthyr v Dagenham/R'bridge
Slough v Runcorn
Southport v Telford
Stafford v Witton
Woking v Bath
Yeovil v Bromsgrove

Tennents Scottish Cup
First round

Albion v Huntly
Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
East Fife v Rothes
Forfar v Queen of South
Ross County v St Cuthbert
Stranraer v Whitehill

Scottish League
Premier division

Aberdeen v Partick
Dundee v Celtic
Hibernian v Motherwell
Kilmarnock v Raith
Rangers v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Hearts

First division

Brechin v Airdrie
Clyde v Dumbarton
Clydebank v Dunfermline
Stirling v Ayr

Diadora League
Premier division

Dulwich v Wivenhoe
Grays v Kingstonian
Hendon v Aylesbury
Merlow v Carshalton
Molesey v Hitchin

OTHER MATCHES: Basingstoke v Enfield; Chesham v Harrow; St Albans v Wokingham; Stevenage Borough v Dorking; Sutton v Hayes; Yeading v Bromley. First division: Abingdon Town v Berkhamsted Town; Billericay Town v Tooting and Mitcham; Bognor Regis v Windsor and Eton; Boreham Wood v Barking; Heybridge Swifts v Croydon; Leyton v Purfleet; Maidenhead Utd v Staines Town; Uxbridge v Ruislip Manor; Walton and Hersham v Bishop's Stortford; Wembley v Chalfont St Peter; Whyteleafe v Worthing. Second division: Banstead Athletic v Tilbury; Barton Rovers v Witham Town; Egham Town v Lewes; Hungerford Town v Chertsey Town; Leatherhead v Aveley; Rainham Town v Hampton. Third division: Camberley Town v Feltham and Hounslow; Harlow Town v Hertford Town; Hornchurch v Cove; Horsham v Harefield Utd; Kingsbury Town v Tring Town; Northwood v Epsom and Ewell; Oxford City v Royston Town; Southall v East Thurrock Utd.

Beazer Homes League
Premier division

Hednesford v Stittingbourne
Moor Green v Cambridge City
Nuneaton v Crawley Town
Trowbridge v Burton
Waterlooville v Solihull

OTHER MATCHES: Chelmsford v Cheltenham, Farnborough v Atherstone; Gloucester v Corby; Gresley v Dorchester; Halesowen v Basildon; Hastings v Worcester. Midland division: Armitage v Yate Town; Dudley Town v Leicester Utd; Evesham Utd v Newport AFC, Grantham Town v Forest Green Rovers; Hinckley Town v Tamworth; RC Warwick v Bilston Town; Stourbridge v Bedworth Utd; VS Rugby v Redditch Utd; Weston-super-Mare v Sutton Coldfield Town. Southern division: Ashford Town v Braintree Town; Burnham v Margate; Bury Town v Wealdstone; Fareham Town v Witney Town, Fisher 93 v Salisbury City; Gravesend and Northfleet v Dunstable; Havant Town v Baldock Town; Sudbury Town v Canterbury City; Weymouth v Erith and Belvedere.

LONDON OLD BOYS: Senior Cup: Glyn v Chertsey; Old Southallians v Latymer Old Boys; Old Dorkinians v Old Vaughanians. Premier division: Old Tiffinians v Cardinal Manning; Old Wilsonians v Old Tenisonians.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Blyth Spartans; Consett v Brandon Utd; Durham City v Murton; Eppleton CW v Billingham Synthonia; Guisborough Town v Tow Law Town; Hebburn v Stockton; Newcastle Blue Star v Dunston FB; Northallerton Town v Shildon; Seaham Red Star v Whitby Town; West Auckland v Ferryhill Athletic.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Chasetown Town v Norwich Utd; Fakenham Town v Felixstowe Town; Gorleston v Tiptree Utd; Heston v Great Yarmouth Town; Lowestoft Town v Haverhill Rovers, Stowmarket Town v Cornard Utd; Sudbury Wanderers v Newmarket Town; Watton Utd v March Town Utd; Wroxham v Harwich and Parkeston.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Arda v Crusaders; Bangor v Carrick; Cliftonville v Omagh Town; Glenavon v Ballyclare; Glentoran v Distillery; Linfield v Coleraine; Newry v Larne; Portadown v Ballymena.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second round: Accrington Stanley v Guiseley; Alfreton Town v Droylsden; Ashton Utd v Fenley Celtic; Barrow v Buxton; Bosson v Fleetwood; Bridlington Town v Bishop Auckland; Eastwood Town v Knowsley Utd; Emley v Lancaster City; Frickley v Gretna; Gainsborough v Colwyn Bay; Horwich v St Harwood Town; Hyde v Matlock; Leek v Caernarfon Town; Morecambe v Chorley; Spennymoor Utd v Marine; Whitley Bay v Winsford. First division: Curzon Ashton v Netherfield; Harrogate Town v Mossley; Worksop Town v Congleton Town.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v West Ham; Cambridge Utd v Norwich; Chelsea v Charlton; Gillingham v Tottenham; Ipswich v Fulham, Leyton Orient v Portsmouth; QPR v Southend; Watford v Millwall. Second division: Brentford v Bournemouth; Brighton v Bristol Rovers; Bristol City v Southampton; Luton v Swindon; Oxford Utd v Colchester; Tottenham v Reading; Wimbledon v Crystal Palace

FA VASE: Third round: Thackley v Lincoln United; Cammell Laird v Glossop North End (1.30); Oadby Town v Pontefland United (1.30); Nantwich Town v Becup Borough; Belper Town v Brigg Town; Radcliffe Borough v Yorkshire Amateur; Penrith v Atherton LR; Whickham v Bamber Bridge; Dunkirk v Maltby MW (1.30); Wisbech Town v Collier Row; Great Wakering Rovers v Hindley Athletic (1.30); Northampton Spencer v Coganhoe United; Boston v Bedlont; Ford United v Diss Town; Saffron Walden Town v Raunds Town; Bridgnorth Town v Chesham; Soham Town Rangers v Brimsdown Rovers; Buckingham Town v Kings Lynn; Pelsall Villa v Halstead Town, Eastwood Hanley v Arlesey Town; Canvey Island v Corinthian-Casuals; Taunton Town v Barnstaple Town; Elmore v Thame United; Croydon Athletic v Paulton Rovers; Tonbridge v Tiverton Town; Aldershot Town v Malden Vale; Tunbridge Wells v Torpoint Athletic; Clevedon Town v Wimborne Town; Bracknell Town v Newbury Town; Falmouth Town v Andover; Whitehawk v Metropolitan Police

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Skelmersdale Utd; Burscough v St Helens Town; Chedderton v Bootle, Darwen v Newcastle Town; Kidsgrove Athletic v Prescot; Maine Road v Bradford Park Avenue; Rossendale Utd v Clitheroe; Salford City v Flixton.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Arsenal (2.0).

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior Cup: Old Owens v Wandsworth Borough. Senior one: Mill Hill Village v Wilan; Nottsborough v St Mary's College; Old Bealonians v Old Grammarians; Old Finchleians v Parkfield. Senior two: Ealing Association v Ulysses; Old Fairlopians v Old Monovians; Southgate v Duncombe Sports; UCL Academicals v Corinthian Casuals.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Chigwellians v Reptonians; Eastbournians v Wellingburians; Lancing v Brentwoods; Salopians v Ardinians. Premier division: Carthusians v Malvernians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Lansbury v Nat West Bank; Old Esthamians v Midland Bank; South Bank Poly v West Wickham; Winchmore Hill v Carshalton; Old Stationers v Old Bromleians; Broomfield v Kew Association; Old Parkonians v Polytechnic; Old Latymerians v Lloyds Bank; Old Westminster Citz v Cusco; Brantham v Reigate Priory; Old Parmiterians v Bank of England; Merton v Old Lyonians; Barclays Bank v Alleyn OB; Old Salesians v Royal Bank Scotland.

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Second round: Lancashire v Cambridgeshire (at Nottingham); Lincolnshire v Essex (at Wellingborough); Suffolk v Cumbria (at Erewash), Nottinghamshire v Durham (at Rowntree, Yorkshire); Hampshire v Cornwall (at Bristol); Devon v Kent (at Loddon Vale); Surrey v Bucks (at Whitelnights); Somerset v Worcs (at Bersham)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Towers v Chester Jets; Oldham Celtics v Guildford Kings; Hemel Hempstead Royals v Thames Valley Tigers; Sunderland Scorpions v Doncaster Panthers. Second division: Guildford Storm v Swindon Saints; London Elephants v Leicester Falcons; Mid-Sussex Magic v Stevenage Pheonix; Northampton 89'ers v Lewisham Lightning; Nottingham Cobras v Chiltern Fallbreak. Women's first division: Northampton 89'ers v South Tyneside; Barking and Dagenham Bobcats v Ipswich; London Jets v Thames Valley Ladies.

VOLLEYBALL: Royal Bank of Scotland National League: Women: First division: Purbrook v Ashcombe Guildford Spectrum. Second division: Portsmouth College v Birmingham Ladies; Polonia Ladies v Timsbut Gloucester City; Manchester United Salford v Trent Fm Rockets; Reebok Liverpool City v Sheffield Wednesday; Team Knights v London Lynx; Spark Jet Stationery v Dynamo London II.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v London Irish
Gloucester v Harlequins (2.30)
Leicester v Bristol
Newcastle Gosforth v Northampton
Wasps v Orrell

Second division

London Scottish v Saracens (2.15)
Otley v Wakefield (2.15)
Rugby v Moseley
Sale v West Hartlepool
Waterloo v Nottingham

Third division

Bedford v Richmond
Blackheath v Rosslyn Park
Havant v Coventry (2.15)
Morley v Exeter
Redruth v Fylde

Fourth division

Aspatria v Askeans
Clifton v Liverpool St Helens
Harrogate v Broughton Park
Leeds v Plymouth (2.30)
Sudbury v Sheffield (2.30)

Fifth division north

Bradford and Bingley v Hereford (2.15)
Lichfield v Birmingham Solihull (2.30)
Preston G'hoppers v Kendal (2.15)
Rotherham v Nuneaton (2.15)
Walsall v Stoke-on-Trent (2.15)
Winnington Park v Stourbridge (2.30)

Fifth division south

Barry Hill v High Wycombe
London Welsh v Camborne (2.15)
Maidstone v Basingstoke (2.30)
Met Police v North Walsham
Southend v Weston-super-Mare
Tabard v Reading (2.30)

Heineken Welsh League
First division

Cross Keys v Aberavon (2.30)
Dunvant v Cardiff (2.30)
Llanelli v Swansea (2.30)
Neath v Newport (2.30)
Pontypool v Bridgend (2.30)
Pontypridd v Newbridge (2.30)

Second division

Abertillery v Maesteg (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Llandovary v Treorchy (2.30)
Llanharan v Penarth (2.30)
Mountain Ash v Glamorgan W (2.30)
Narberth v South Wales Police (2.30)

Representative matches

Connacht v Glasgow District (at Galway, 2.0)
Edinburgh District v Ulster (at Goldenacre, 2.0)
Munster v Scottish North and Mid (at Cork, 2.0)
South of Scotland v Leinster (at Melrose, 2.0)

Club matches

Clarkston v Glasgow Acads (2.0)
Durham v Middlesbrough (2.15)
Glasgow High v Gala (2.0)
Hawick FP v Kilmarnock (2.0)
Jed-Forest v Dundee HSFP (2.0)
Kelso v Boroughmuir (2.0)
Langholm v Hawick (2.0)
Peebles v Melrose (2.0)
Selkirk v Hillhead-Jordanhill (2.0)
Stirling County v Ayr (2.0)
Watsonians v Kirkaldy (2.0)
West of Scotland v Haddington (2.0)

Colts county championship
Final

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire (at Twickenham, 2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
First round replay

Orrell St James v York Acorn (2.0)

Regal Trophy
Third round

St Helens v Warrington (3.0)

HOCKEY

Pizza Express National League
First division

Bournville v Welton (Birmingham University 12.30)
Bromley v Havant (Priory LC, Orpington 1.15)
Firebrands v Cannock (Longwood, Bristol 2.0)
Hounslow v Canterbury (Chiswick Boathouse 2.0)
Reading v Stourport (Sonning Lane 2.0)
Slough v St Albans (Wexham School 2.0)
Teddington v East Grinstead (Teddington School 1.15)
Trojans v Indian Gymkhana (Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh 1.30)

Postponed: Southgate v Old Loughtonians.

SECOND DIVISION: Barford Tigers v Oxford University (Holyhead LC, Birmingham 12.45); Beeston v Guildford (Highfields, Nottingham 1.30); Brooklands v Sheffield (The Pavilions, Sale 1.45); Cheltenham v Beaconsfield (Bournside School, Cheltenham 1.15); Harleston Magpies v Doncaster (Shofford Heath, 12.30); Isca v Gloucester City (Exeter School 12.30); Neston v Richmond (Neston RC 2.0); Surbiton v Cambridge City (Sugden Road, 2.0); Warrington v Harborne (Broomfields Road, 12.30).

NASTRO AZZURRO SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Chichester v Hampstead and Westminster; City of Portsmouth v Fareham; Hendon v Gore Court; High Wycombe v Staines; Lyons v Anchorians; Maidenhead v Dulwich; Mid-Sussex v Tulse Hill; Old Walcountians v Old Kingstonians; Wimbledon v Spencer; Winchester v Oxford Hawks. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Old Tauntonians; Bournemouth v Barclays Bank; Camberley v Fleet; Cheam v Merton; Epsom v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Lensbury v Petersfield; London University v Old Whitgiftians; Old Edwardians v Basingstoke; Purley v Oxshott; Woking v Weybridge Hawks. Kent/Sussex: Eastbourne v Lloyds Bank; Horsham v Gravesend; Lewes v Bexleyheath; Marden Russets v Herne Bay; Old Bordenians v Crawley; Old Holcombians v Blackheath; Old Williamsonians v Brighton; Sevenoaks v Beckenham; Tonbridge v Tunbridge Wells; Worthing v Bognor. Middlesex/Berkshire/Buckinghamshire/Oxfordshire: Amersham v Hayes; Ashford v HCC; Aylesbury v Milton Keynes; Bracknell v Harrow; City of Oxford v Gerrards Cross; Eastcote v Marlow; Ramgarhia v OMT; Rohinge Park v NPL; Sunbury v Morris Motors, Wokingham v Mid Hill.

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLAND LEAGUE: Belper v Worcester Norton; Bloxwich v Olton and West Warks; Hampton in Arden v Coventry and North Warks; Khalsa v Fincnfield; Lichfield v Leicester Westleigh.

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: Alderley Edge v Formby; Durham Univ v Ben Rhydding; Hightown-Northern v Norton; Timperley v Blackburn, York v Southport.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday (4 0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Charlton v Portsmouth
Derby v Nottingham Forest (all ticket)
Grimsby v Sunderland

B and Q Cup final

Falkirk v St Mirren (at Motherwell)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Cobh Ramblers v St Patrick's Athletic (2.15); Derry City v Bohemians (3.30); Drogheda Utd v Cork City; Limerick v Galway Utd (2.15); Shamrock Rovers v Monaghan Utd (2.15).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Bristol Rovers; Norwich v Chelsea.

BASKETBALL

MEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Brixton v Manchester.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland v Doncaster.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Birmingham v Spelthorne; Chester v Leicester; Harlesden v Brixton; London Jets v Nottingham; Luton v Sheffield.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy
Third round

Batley v Salford (3.15)
Bradford v Halifax (3.0)
Carlisle v Bramley (3.0)
Castleford v Leigh (

Power and Glory leave Cambridge coaches looking spoilt for choice



POWER, left, and Glory, the Cambridge trial crews, exhibited exceptional talent on the Tideway yesterday, stirring memories of a post-Boat Race comment last spring when the then president, James Behrens, said: "This is the beginning of a new era for Cambridge" (Mike Rosewell writes). Behrens's successor, Jon Bernstein, the United States international, was in Power, the losing boat yesterday, but said: "A learning experience like that is invaluable," and, in a contest that saw the crews overlapping for the first 12 minutes, the coaches, John Wilson, Sean Bowden, and the New Zealander, Harry Mahon, watched for signs of weakness among world champions and freshmen alike. Glory, stroked impressively by a 1993 blue, Will Mason, led on Surrey from the Putney start, and settled into a rhythm more quickly than Power, with the German world champion, Peter Hoeltzenbein, setting a generally higher rate in the other stroke seat. Some strange warnings on the Fulham bend by the umpire, Guy Pooley, did not enhance Power's cause, but the crews were still level at Hammersmith. Wind and choppy water along Chiswick Eyot suited the steadier Glory, and they took the initiative. The Glory coxswain, Martin Haycock, cut in front of Power at the Crossing, was warned back by Pooley but the contest was effectively over, and Glory went on to win by two lengths. Glory included an impressive stern three of blues in Richard Phelps, Sinclair Gore, and Will Mason, all surely in contention again, and the coxswain, Martin Haycock, another blue, kept his men in the best water. The coaches could have the problem of being spoilt for choice.

GLORY: Bow: L O Mellemester (Emmanuel); 2, A T West (Magdalene), 3, S J Dawson-Bowling (Magdalene), 4, G Dunfield-Prayero (Trinity Hall), 5, R D Taylor (Trinity Hall), 6, R C Phelps (St Edmund's), 7, S M Gore (Jesus). Stroke: W T Mason (Trinity Hall). *Cox: M N Haycock (Magdalene).*

POWER: Bow: N G Smith (Corpus Christi), 2, I C Wood (Trinity Hall), 3, R M Muirhead (Jesus), 4, R W Swinton (Peterhouse), 5, T Streppelhoff (St Edmund's), 6, J A Bernstein (St Edmund's), 7, M H Perish (St Edmund's), Stroke: P J Holtzenbein (Magdalene), Cox: M R Sorrell (Peterhouse).

Photograph: Ian Stewart

Lathwell builds on bowlers' success

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN JOHANNESBURG

ENGLAND A could hardly have enjoyed a happier first day's proper cricket on their South African tour. Despite losing Bicknell and McCague to injury, and then the toss to Jimmy Cook, they dismissed Transvaal for 161 at the Wanderers Ground and were within 15 runs of that score the close, with seven wickets intact.

All the bowlers shared in the wickets except Such, who was restricted to a couple of exploratory overs. Rhodes held four catches, Lathwell and Morris good ones, and Ilott's fine throw from the third-man boundary provided a smart run-out. A century partnership between Lathwell and Crawley featured the most intelligent batting of the day.

Crawley, alas, did not survive it. Summoned for a sharp single to mid-wicket, he appeared to have made his ground before Stubbs, the substitute fielder, hit the stumps. Lathwell, who had just reached his half-century by hooking Jack for six, promptly replicated the stroke and resumes today on 77.

It is difficult to know how much gets through to Lathwell, who was using a new bat delivered yesterday morning by Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board. Jack, who bowled with some fire, tried to goad him by indulging in the sort of visible abuse that coarsens the game. But he was seen off.

Despite the absence of McCague and Bicknell there was no place for Croft and all six recognised batsmen are playing here, even if Dale, who took three wickets in an effective spell, may consider himself undervalued as an all-rounder. He was born in Germiston, not ten miles from the ground.

Dale claimed the important wickets of Rushmere and Cook with in-duckers and there were shades of Cartwright and Shackleton about the way he moved the ball into the right-hander on a full length and wobbled the occasional one away.

Rushmere made 301 undefeated runs in a match against Gatting's unofficial touring side four years ago. But Dale pinned him in front and found a ball of similar quality to have Cook attentively snaffled by Lathwell at short leg.

After reaching 50 with a piercing straight drive off Ilott, Haysman who had added 70 runs with Laing, was caught behind. At once Laing gambled on beating Ilott's throw from over 75 yards and lost comprehensively.

Cork had bowled poorly in the morning but now he returned to take two wickets and the final wicket, Hobson's, went to Gough who had displayed admirable control on a pitch which, though not particularly fast, offered the bowlers bounce and movement.

England's reply was forged by Lathwell and Crawley who added 102 after Jack had had Morris caught at short leg. Lathwell can often appear hidebound early in an innings but he grew in confidence as Crawley displayed a broad bat at the other end. A lead of 150 must now be the objective.

SCOREBOARD

TRANSVAAL: First Innings

M Yachad c Rhodes b Ilott	4
B M White lbw b Gough	6
M D Haysman c Rhodes b Ilott	52
M W Rushmere lbw b Dale	12
*S J Cook c Lathwell b Dale	4
D R Laing run out	31
†N Pothas c Morris b Cork	8
S Jacobs c Rhodes b Cork	0
C E Eksteen c Morris b Dale	16
S D Jack not out	15
M Hobson c Rhodes b Gough	0
Extras (lb 3, nb 10)	13
Total	161

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-14, 3-39, 4-48, 5-118, 6-119, 7-119, 8-136, 9-160.

BOWLING: Ilott 14-2-32-2; Gough 10.3-5-27-2; Cork 16-1-60-2; Dale 11-1-34-3; Such 2-0-5-0.

ENGLAND A XI: First Innings

M N Lathwell not out	77
*H Morris c White b Jack	7
J P Crawley run out	44
A P Wells lbw b Hobson	7
M C Ilott not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 9)	11
Total 3 wkts	146

M B Loye, †S J Rhodes, D G Cork, A Dale, D Gough and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-111, 3-141.

BOWLING: Jack 10-1-31-1; Hobson 9-0-42-1; Jacobs 10-2-24-0; Laing 5-0-24-0; Eksteen 13-6-23-0.

Umpires: C Mitchley and R Koetzen.



Croft was overlooked for the Transvaal game despite injuries to others

Spinners make West Indies battle for runs

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lankan slow bowlers, Don Anurasiri, Muttiah Muralitharan and Ruwan Kalpage, hit back strongly in the Moratuwa Test match yesterday. They shared the wickets as West Indies struggled to 99 for four after the home side had been dismissed for 190.

Desmond Haynes and Phil Simmons launched the West Indies reply by putting on 42 at nearly four an over before the left-arm Anurasiri had Haynes leg-before for 20, attempting to sweep a straight ball. In an unchanged spell he also removed Keith Arthurton, who was caught off bat and pad without scoring.

The off spinners claimed a wicket apiece, Simmons (17) edging an attempted cut off Kalpage to the wicketkeeper, Pubudu Dasanayake, who also held Lara's edged stroke off Muralitharan. Richie Richardson, who survived a stumping chance off Anurasiri when five, was unbeaten on 26 at the close.

A hostile spell with the second new ball by Ambrose and Benjamin wrapped up the Sri Lankan innings, the last four wickets tumbling for nine runs. Ambrose took three wickets for four runs in 20 deliveries while Benjamin's return of four for 46 was his best in Test cricket, beating his four for 52 achieved against England at the Oval in 1988.

Aravinda de Silva was Sri Lanka's top scorer, making 53 in 143 minutes with one six and three fours, before Kalpage and Dasanayake shared a seventh-wicket stand of 51. Their fighting partnership was ended by Benjamin, who in one over delivered four bouncers at Dasanayake and was warned by the umpire, T. M. Samarasinghe.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First Innings

R S Mahanama c Murray b Benjamin	11
D P Samaraweera c Harper b Hooper	16
H P Tillekaratne c Lara b Harper	0
P A de Silva b Benjamin	53
*A Ranatunga c Lara b Walsh	31
S T Jayasuriya lbw b Benjamin	0
R S Kalpage c Richardson b Ambrose	39
†P B Dasanayake c Murray b Benjamin	18
G P Wickremasinghe c Lara b Ambrose	0
S D Anurasiri b Ambrose	1
M Muralitharan not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 9, nb 10)	20
Total	190

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-57, 4-108, 5-108, 6-130, 7-181, 8-182, 9-188.

BOWLING: Ambrose 12.2-5-14-3; Walsh 21-6-40-1; Harper 24-12-36-1; Hooper 20-5-44-1; Benjamin 20-8-46-4; Arthurton 1-1-0-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

D L Haynes lbw b Anurasiri	20
P V Simmons c Dasanayake b Kalpage	17
*R B Richardson not out	26
B C Lara c Dasanayake b Muralitharan	18
K L T Arthurton c Jayasuriya b Anurasiri	0
C L Hooper not out	9
Extras (nb 9)	9
Total (4 wkts)	99

R A Harper, †J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-42, 3-78, 4-84.

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 5-0-25-0; Ranatunga 2-0-5-0; Anurasiri 18-4-35-2; Kalpage 6-2-16-1; Muralitharan 9-4-17-1; Jayasuriya 1-0-1-0.

Campbell forges spirited innings

ALISTAIR Campbell scored 63 despite being hit on the cheek by a ball from the Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, to give Zimbabwe a good start to their first innings on the second day of the second Test match in Rawalpindi yesterday.

After dismissing Pakistan for 245, Zimbabwe lost four wickets for only 27 runs. When bad light stopped play, they were 129 for four.

Campbell hit 11 fours and a six after Zimbabwe had lost their first wicket with no runs scored. He put on 102 with the opener, Mark Dekker (37 not out), before the fast bowler, Ata-ur-Rehman, trapped him leg-before.

Then Ashfaq Ahmed took his first Test wicket when the former captain, David Houghton, was caught at short mid-wicket for five.

Akram took a good catch at mid-off off Waqar Younis to dismiss the Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower, for 12. Earlier, the Zimbabwe bowlers had restricted Pakistan to 245 after the home side had resumed at 185 for five. David Brain, took four for 41 while Eddo Brandes and Heath Streak took three wickets apiece.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Aamer Sohail c Houghton b Streak	8
Shoaib Mohammad lbw b Brain	18
Inzaman-ul-Haq b Brain	38
Javed Miandad b Streak	20
Basit Ali c Streak b Brandes	25
Asif Mujtaba not out	54
†Rashid Latif lbw b Brain	33
*Wasim Akram c Campbell b Brandes	11
Waqar Younis lbw b Brandes	7
Ata-ur-Rehman lbw b Brain	10
Ashfaq Ahmed c Flower b Streak	0
Extras (b 4, lb 12, w 2, nb 3)	21
Total	245

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-33, 3-99, 4-101, 5-131, 6-187, 7-209, 8-225, 9-241.

BOWLING: Brandes 32-5-82-3; Brain 32-9-41-4; Streak 23 2-5-58-3; Whittall 17-6-39-0; Peall 6-3-9-0.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G W Flower c Inzamam b Akram	0
M H Dekker not out	37
A D R Campbell lbw b Rehman	63
D L Houghton c Mujtaba b Ashfaq	5
*†A Flower c Akram b Waqar	12
G J Whittall not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 1, w 1, nb 5)	12
Total (4 wkts)	129

G Bruk-Jackson, D H Streak, S G Peall, E A Brandes and D Brain to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-102, 3-110, 4-126.

BOWLING: Wasim 9-2-38-1; Waqar 5-1-36-1; Rehman 7-2-30-1; Ashfaq 7-2-18-1.

England at mercy of counties' conservatism



ALAN LEE

Cricket Commentary

Contrary to popular opinion, there are a number of progressive minds among the officers of the Test and County Cricket Board, enlightened men who must have spent the time since the Board meeting this week in despair over the decisions which restored the reactionaries to control.

In the past five years, the most positive steps for English cricket have been taken as a result of two bodies, the inaugural England committee, under Ted Dexter, and the Mike Murray working party on the structure of the domestic game. This week, the Board dismembered the first group, insulted the second and damaged the interests of all who aspire to play international cricket.

Dexter's committee sought, with some success, to make the national teams a priority, not just at the peak of the pyramid but down through the age-groups. Some of the counties, who make up the Board, became resentful, feeling that their own interests were being relegated and that policies were being imposed without their consent.

They have exploited an admittedly appalling year for the Test team to hound Dexter out of office — it was the pressure from some past and present county chairmen which hurt him most — and to discredit the immense advances made in the preparation of England teams.

Such work has at least been acknowledged by the creation of yet another committee, development, but by resurrecting the old-style selection panel and separating it from the administrative arm of England matters, the counties have opted for what they know and recognise rather than a system they did not trust or understand.

Only recently, the chairman of a leading county told me that he had been unsure of the value and functions of the England committee until he sat in on one of their meetings. He left, converted and impressed. Perhaps, then, it is the fault of Dexter's public relations. Perhaps if every chairman, in turn, had sat in on an England committee meeting, the unwieldy reorganisation this week would have been unnecessary. But then again, perhaps it is simply the fault of the counties, for being ruled by suspicion of the unknown.

That same suspicion threatened the adoption of the Murray report, published last April as "a blueprint for the first-class game". Its main plank was the shift to four-day championship games but there was also some streamlining of two one-day competitions. The counties accepted its recommendations and undertook to give them a three-year trial.

Now, after a single year, two of the changes have been abandoned. Four-day cricket is here to stay, but the Sunday League is being rushed back from 50 to 40 overs and, much worse, the group stage of the Benson and Hedges Cup is to be revived in 1995.

The justification for this regression is that county members liked the group games. If so, they had a strange way of showing it, for most were played in near-empty grounds, in cheerless weather, by players who would have been better employed starting the season with meaningful first-class fixtures.

Within its "blueprint", the Murray committee reported that group games had shown a meagre average income of £3,500 and suggested: "An early start to the competition is disruptive to cricketers who have to switch between championship cricket and the 55-over game. A group structure also carries with it the burden of travel between matches." Damning enough, one might have thought.

It fell to Alan Smith and Tim Lamb, respectively chief executive and cricket secretary of the Board, to announce the change on Thursday. They put a brave face on it, but one sensed an understandable lack of enthusiasm.

Lamb must now accommodate these group games in his "jigsaw" of a fixture list and he confirmed that the 1995 season will probably have to start a week earlier. If there are cheers around the shires at this news, it will be interesting to see how many celebrate on site when the group games start 16 months hence.

Ossie Wheatley will not have welcomed the news. As chairman of the Board's cricket committee, he had been trying, some time prior to the Murray report, to instal four-day cricket and schedule fewer limited-overs games. Nobody can know better than him how parochial some counties can be.

"One of our problems has been the volume of one-day cricket played," he explains, "but my committee recognised there was not only a commercial demand for it but a practical demand from members. Sometimes, in cricket and other sports, the success of a club competition can be counter-productive to the national team."

So it is the club versus country syndrome rearing its head in the summer game. All the important decisions this week had the hollow echo of conservatism. For as long as this attitude prevails, which may be for as long as such decisions are left to the counties, domestic cricket will not be as competitive as it ought to be and the England team will not achieve the quality of which it is capable.

هكذا من الأصل

Cheltenham fixture offers clues to festival events



JULIAN HERBERT

Mulbank, right, jumps alongside Dr Rocket before drawing clear to win the Kineton Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase at Cheltenham

Remarks put Wilson on legal trail

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING telephone tipster faces being sued for libel by Julian Wilson over remarks made about BBC television's racing correspondent. Mark Holder, who runs a telephone racing service from near Bristol, faces legal action after criticising Wilson for saying that premium-rate tipping lines were "a complete rip-off."

The legal development stems from an interview with Wilson printed in *The Sporting Life Weekender* in which he was asked about changes which would help punters. Wilson's suggestions included "a ban on 0898 lines, which take vast fortunes of punters' money out of the system and are a complete rip-off."

In a letter published by *The Sporting Life* this week, Holder responded by saying there were unscrupulous individuals in all areas of business but to assume everyone who ran a raceline was out to deceive people was naive. He then made remarks about Wilson which have prompted the legal action against himself and *The Sporting Life*.

Wilson confirmed yesterday that the matter was in the hands of his solicitors. On his telephone line yesterday, Holder said Wilson had taken offence at his letter and he urged his callers to write to the racing press giving their views. He claimed that Wilson was abusing his position as a journalist in condemning all telephone lines. "It's an absolute disgrace," he said.

The number of premium rate lines offering racing tips has mushroomed in recent years along with advertisements in the racing press extolling their betting "coups" and successes, though rarely referring to their losers. The lines, which cost 48 pence per minute at peak times, are subject to minimum regulation or monitoring.

Wilson will be on duty at Cheltenham today for an interesting card which should offer some valuable festival pointers. The Champion Hurdle picture resembles a play without a leading character following doubts about the participation of the Irish-trained Vintage Crop and Montelado. King Credo has an ideal opportunity to restore some order by winning the Bula Hurdle to become the favourite for the hurdling crown.



Wilson: legal action

Steve Woodman's hurdler gave his best performance when winning at Ascot three weeks ago and race fitness should give him the edge over Halkopous, who finished three lengths ahead of King Credo in last season's Champion Hurdle.

With Prestbury Park drying out yesterday, the going may be too fast for the soft ground-loving Staunch Friend. Muse, the only runner not have raced in the Champion Hurdle last March, could prove the biggest threat as David Elsworth has his string in fine form.

The Tripleprint Gold Cup looks set to be run at a furious pace as Egypt Mill Prince, Young Hustler, Fragrant Dawn and General Pershing are front-runners. Their duelling could set up the race for a horse coming from off the pace. David Nicholson is sweet on the chances of Second Schedual, but the improving Stunning Stuff looks a value alternative.

An abundance of above-average novice chasers means the BonusPrint Novices' Chase is arguably the most enthralling contest of the day as Coulton, Crystal Spirit, Mudahim and Gaelstrom clash. Gaelstrom had the beating of the well-regarded See More Indians when falling at Worcester last time and that form was underlined when the winner triumphed yesterday.

But the performance of the day belonged to Flashing Steel, trained by John Mulhern and owned by Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister.

Haughey was on hand to see his top chaser win the Food Brokers Fisherman's Friend Chase in style and the improving eight-year-old is a best-priced 20-1 for the Gold Cup.

Results, page 39

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

12.15 Corrouge
12.45 Gaelstrom
1.20 Halkopous
1.55 YOUNG HUSTLER (nap)
2.30 Satin Lover
3.05 Wonder Man
3.40 Meditator

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 MEDITATOR.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

12.15 LAURELS NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £6,460: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

101	101-21	LARGE ACTION 14 (D,G,S) (S Stewart-Brown) D Sherwood 5-11-7	J Osborne	90
102	1	CORROUGE 8 (G) (M Cass) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0	C Llewellyn	81
103	5-0	DURSHAN 9 (BF) (C Noble) J Jenkins 4-11-0	D Murphy	–
104	45-1122	FATACK 14 (D,G) (J Barnett) Miss J Doyle 4-11-0	S Curran	(5)
105	F1	LINPAC WEST 35F (S) (Group 1 Racing (1991) Ltd) J Spearing 7-11-0	A Maguire	80
106	F/5F23-1	MORCELI 25 (G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) J Johnson 5-11-0	R Dunwoody	85
107	121512	ATHAR 9 (D,F,G,S) (J Buxton) R Baker 4-10-13	R Guest	90

BETTING: 9-4 Large Action, 11-4 Linpac West, 4-1 Corrouge, 11-2 Morcell, 6-1 Athar, 12-1 Fatack, 14-1 Durshan.

1992: SATIN LOVER 4-11-7 G McCourt (4-6 fav) N Tinkler 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

LARGE ACTION beat FATACK (13lb better off) 4l in a 19-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). CORROUGE beat Concord Tonic 8l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good). FATACK short-head 2nd of 18 to Winnowing in a novice hurdle at Warwick on penultimate start (2m, good to soft).

LINPAC WEST beat Simply 1l in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). MORCELI beat Spudbull 12l in a 17-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). ATHAR beat Here He Comes 13l in a 9-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Subsequently disqualified and placed 2nd. Selection: CORROUGE

12.45 BONUSPRINT NOVICES CHASE
BBC1
(£10,211: 2m 5f) (6 runners)

201	10-1U11	COULTON 21 (F,G,S) (G Shouler) M W Easterby 6-11-10	J Osborne	90
202	333-211	CRYSTAL SPIRIT 31 (C,D,F,G,S) (P Mellon) J Balding 6-11-5	J Frost	(5)
203	515143	FESTIVAL DREAMS 22 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11-5	A Maguire	74
204	54/33-11	MUDAHIM 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (K Bell) C Brooks 7-11-5	W Marston	98
205	160-231	THE GLOW 17 (D,G) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 5-11-5	P Holley	88
206	212-11F	GAELSTROM 31 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Powell) W Twiston-Davies 6-11-1	C Llewellyn	97

BETTING: 9-4 Gaelstrom, 5-2 Coulton, 11-4 Crystal Spirit, 6-1 Mudahim, 12-1 The Glow, 25-1 Festival Dreams.

1992: BARTON BANK 6-11-10 R Dunwoody (4-7 fav) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULTON beat Keep Stamp 15l in a 3-runner novice chase at Aintree (2m 4l, good). CRYSTAL SPIRIT beat Judged Lucky 12l in an 8-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 4l, good). FESTIVAL DREAMS 15½l 3rd of 7 to Spikey in a novice handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). MUDAHIM beat Nickle Joe 20l in a 7-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). THE GLOW beat Wanderweg 7l in a 10-runner novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). GAELSTROM beat Gilston Lass 20l in a 7-runner novice chase on the Old course here on penultimate start (3m 1f 110yd, good). Selection: CRYSTAL SPIRIT

1.20 BULA HURDLE
BBC1
(Grade II: £21,560: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

301	22312-4	GRANVILLE AGAIN 22 (C,D,F,G,S) (E Scarth) M Pipe 7-11-8	R Dunwoody	96
302	22/1103-	HALKOPOUS 43F (CD,F,G,S) (A Christodoulou) M Tompkins 7-11-8	G McCourt	94
303	3/16113-	MUSE 12F (C,G,S) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 6-11-8	P Holley	95
304	0425-24	ROYAL DERBI 26 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8-11-8	W Marston	97
305	210011	STAUNCH FRIEND 29 (C,D,G,S) (B Schmidt-Bodner) M Tompkins 5-11-8	D Murphy	98
306	6/4414-1	KING CREDO 22 (G,S) (G Gomdi) S Woodman 8-11-4	A Maguire	(3)
307	0210-43	FLAKEY DOVE 22 (D,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 7-10-13	J Osborne	86

BETTING: 11-8 King Credo, 7-2 Halkopous, 9-2 Granville Again, 5-1 Staunch Friend, 16-1 Muse, 18-1 Flakey Dove, 33-1 Royal Derbi.

1992: HALKOPOUS 6-11-2 A Maguire (8-1) M Tompkins 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

GRANVILLE AGAIN beat ROYAL DERBI 1l in the 18-runner grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle on the Old course here in March (2m 110yd, good to firm), with HALKOPOUS 2½l 3rd, KING CREDO (4lb better off) 3l 4th, FLAKEY DOVE 2½l 7th and STAUNCH FRIEND (9lb worse off) over 30l 17th. HALKOPOUS beat GRANVILLE AGAIN (6lb better off) 10l in this race last year (6 ran, soft). MUSE beat Nocnadic Way 25l in the 4-runner grade I Wyko Power Transmission Hurdle here on penultimate start (2m 5f 110yd, soft). STAUNCH FRIEND beat Arabian Bold ½l in a 5-runner hurdle on the Old course here (2m 110yd, good). KING CREDO beat Sweet Duke 3½l in the 6-runner grade II Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle (2m 4f, good), with FLAKEY DOVE (5lb better off) a neck 3rd and GRANVILLE AGAIN (1lb better off) 25l 4th. Selection: STAUNCH FRIEND (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
I Balding	5	16	31.3	R Guest	9	37	24.3
K Bailey	13	48	27.1	R Dunwoody	49	219	22.4
N Tinkler	5	20	25.0	J Frost	14	75	18.7
D Nicholson	34	147	23.1	N Mann	5	30	16.7
N Twiston-Davies	19	81	20.9	A Maguire	14	90	15.6
M Pipe	51	252	20.2	G McCourt	13	95	13.7

1.55 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE
BBC1
(Grade III: £31,215: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

401	23501-0	MORLEY STREET 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 9-11-10	J Frost	–
402	22112-P	ANOTHER CORAL 14 (CD,F,G,S) (M Desley) D Nicholson 10-11-7	W Marston	97
403	312-11F	SECOND SCHEDUAL 28 (D,F,G,S) (H McMahon) D Nicholson 8-11-3	A Maguire	98
404	11213-2	YOUNG HUSTLER 51 (CD,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1	C Llewellyn	90
405	111-294	GENERAL PERSHING 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) (J Perse) G Richards 7-10-8	N Doughty	94
406	52-220P	ARMAGRET 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Watkinson) B Wilkinson 8-10-5	L O'Hara	95
407	513-121	EGYPT MILL PRINCE 14 (S,C,F,G,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-4	R Dunwoody	(5)
408	4F-FP15	FREELINE FINISHING 8 (B,G,S) (I Smart) N Henderson 8-10-4	J Osborne	93
409	21-622P-	FRAGRANT DAWN 228 (BF,F,G,S) (D & S Mercer) M Pipe 8-10-2	D Murphy	97
410	15-4PU9	BRANDESTON 18 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 8-10-0	P Murphy (7)	91
411	125-12F	STUNNING STUFF 9 (D,BF,F,G) (G Glendell) K Bailey 6-10-0	S McNeill	83

Long handicap: Brandeston 9-9, Stunning Stuff 9-3.

BETTING: 5-2 Second Schedual, 3-1 Egypt Mill Prince, 5-1 Young Hustler, 7-1 Another Coral, 8-1 General Pershing, 16-1 Fragrant Dawn, 20-1 Freeline Finishing, Morley Street, Stunning Stuff, 25-1 others.

1992: ANOTHER CORAL 9-11-4 R Dunwoody (11-2) D Nicholson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MORLEY STREET beat Granville Again 11½l in the 6-runner grade I Mariott Aintree Hurdle on penultimate start (2m 4f, firm). ANOTHER CORAL 9th (2nd of 7 to Sibton Abbey in a conditional chase here on penultimate start (3m 1f 110yd, soft). SECOND SCHEDUAL beat Practice Run a short head in a 10-runner handicap hurdle at Listowel on penultimate start (3m, yielding to soft). YOUNG HUSTLER 5l 2nd of 6 to Panto Prince in the grade II Desert Orchid Chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm). GENERAL PERSHING 12½l 4th of 6 to Young Benz in a handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good), with ARMAGRET pulled up at half-way. EGYPT MILL PRINCE beat Gelbourn's Nephew 4l in an 8-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good), with ANOTHER CORAL (4lb better off) pulled up at halfway. Previously, 7l 2nd of 15 to Bradbury Star in the grade III Mackeson Gold Cup on Old Course here (2m 4f 110yd, soft), with GENERAL PERSHING (4lb better off) 4l 3rd, ARMAGRET (7lb better off) 19l 7th, MORLEY STREET (4lb better off) 25l 8th, SECOND SCHEDUAL (4lb better off) 2nd when fell 3 out and BRANDESTON pressed rider 1st. FREELINE FINISHING beat Pitsy 10l in a 3-runner handicap chase at Hereford on penultimate start (2m 3f, good). FRAGRANT DAWN 4l 3rd of 9 to Space Fair in a handicap chase here on penultimate start (2m 110yd, good to firm). Selection: EGYPT MILL PRINCE

2.30 LONESOME GLORY HURDLE
BBC1
(£9,085: 2m 4l) (7 runners)

501	4212-PP	CARDINAL RED 28 (B,F,G) (Mrs F Walwyn) B De Haan 6-11-8	J Osborne	(5)
502	130-323	SATIN LOVER 14 (C,G,S) (D Hall) N Tinkler 5-11-8	G McCourt	85
503	2-23412	MOTORCADE 35 (D,F,G) (I Crawford IV) J Gillot (US) 4-11-7	R Dunwoody	–
504	11-1	CALL HOME 11 (C,F,G) (M Pitch) J Gifford 5-11-0	D Murphy	81
505	00-5541	KADI 12 (G,S) (J Brown) D Nicholson 4-10-8	A Maguire	92
506	112-36P1	DANCE OF WORDS 61 (D,F,G,S) (J Johnson) J Johnson 4-10-4	W Marston	70
507	126-400	ZAMBRAH 7 (F,G) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-4	C Llewellyn	90

BETTING: 7-4 Satin Lover, 100-30 Zambrah, 9-2 Kadi, 5-1 Call Home, 8-1 Motorcade, 10-1 others.

1992: LONESOME GLORY 4-11-1 Miss B Miller (20-1) F Boco Miller (US) 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

CARDINAL RED 31½l 2nd of 7 to Boscean Chieftain in a hurdle at Haydock on final start last season (2m 7f 110yd, good to firm). SATIN LOVER 8½l 3rd of 5 to Bold Boss in the grade II Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). MOTORCADE beat Pylons Parade head in a 12-runner hurdle at Far Hills, New Jersey, on penultimate start (2m 4f, good). CALL HOME beat Armateur 5l in a 6-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6l, good). KADI beat Healthfield Gale 2l in an 18-runner handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 5f 110yd, good). DANCE OF WORDS beat Firm Price 3l in a 12-runner claiming hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good). ZAMBRAH 13l 6th of 12 to Land Ator in the grade III William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Selection: SATIN LOVER

3.05 GEORGE STEVENS HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,420: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

601	12233-F	KATABATIC 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) A Turnell 10-12-0	S McNeill	94
602	11222-2	WONDER MAN 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Robles) D Nicholson 8-11-5	A Maguire	95
603	11-229R	SPACE FAIR 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Osborne House Ltd) R Lee 10-10-9	R Greene	(3)
604	20-531F	HOWE STREET 21 (D,BF,F,G,S) (W Black) J Johnson 10-10-0	R Dunwoody	96

Long handicap: Howe Street 9-13.

BETTING: 6-11 Wonder Man, 9-4 Katabatic, 9-2 Howe Street, 8-1 Space Fair.

1992: SHAMANA 6-10-9 R Dunwoody (7-2) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KATABATIC 2½l 3rd of 9 to Deep Sensation in the grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase here in March (2m, good to firm). WONDER MAN 16l 2nd of 5 to Young Snaffit in a handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good), with SPACE FAIR (4lb better off) a close 3rd when running out 4 out and KATABATIC (same terms) fell 5th. SPACE FAIR beat Shamana 2l in a 12-runner handicap chase over course and distance in March (good to firm). HOWE STREET beat Armagret 2½l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). Selection: WONDER MAN

3.40 NEWENT HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,952: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	2/5-4331	JEASSU 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Mills) A J Wilson 10-11-10	T Jenks (5)	87
2	02805-6	KETTI 9 (B,F,G,S) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 8-11-6	R Dunwoody	86
3	12-42	GLAISDALE 14 (BF,S) (Clevals Ltd) M Tompkins 4-11-2	D Murphy	89
4	PY53-5	THE DECENT THING 7 (G,S) (Miss B Swiny) G Balding 10-10-10	R Davis (5)	90
5	0/15821	MEDITATOR 7 (D,G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 6-10-7	S Curran (5)	(3)
6	1045/0	STAR PLAYER 14 (D,S) (P Smith) R Baker 7-10-5	N Mann	–

BETTING: 5-2 Jeassu, 11-4 MacAllister, 9-2 Glaisdale, 6-1 Ketti, 7-1 Star Player, 10-1 The Decent Thing.

1992: ABNEGATION 7-10-8 D Murphy (5-1) J Johnson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

JEASSU beat GLAISDALE (1lb better off) ½l in an 11-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good), with STAR PLAYER (11lb better off) 25½l 7th. KETTI 39l 6th of 9 to disqualified Allier in a handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). THE DECENT THING 20l 5th of 16 to Dark Honey in a handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6l, good to soft). MEDITATOR beat Onlaspromanship 25l in an 8-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Selection: THE DECENT THING

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

CHELTENHAM
BBC1

12.45: Coulton's bloodless victories at Aintree and Newcastle were both punctuated with jumping errors, so Gaelstrom is preferred over the stiff fences. Gaelstrom had the measure of yesterday's winner, See More Indians, when she came down after a rare lapse at Worcester. The 9lb she receives from Coulton is a bonus.

1.20: With Granville Again and Royal Derbi out of form, the sharp turn of foot possessed by Staunch Friend can settle this intriguing contest. Best in small fields, Staunch Friend has everything in his favour and can spring a mild surprise. King Credo has sound claims but represents bad value at his likely odds.

1.55: Second Schedual can atone for his Mackeson tumble three fences from home. He has a 4lb pull with the second and third, Egypt Mill Prince and General Pershing. The selection has nothing in hand of Young Hustler on their Newbury running last season, but while Second Schedual has progressed, Young Hustler was below-par at Wincanton last time.

2.30: Kadi can make the most of a weakly-contested event. Satin Lover is closely matched with Kadi at these weights, but he has never run over this trip before. Call Home, while only a novice, would not need to be too smart to take a hand.

JULIAN MUSCAT

Nap: STUNNING STUFF
(1.55 Cheltenham)
Next best: Gaelstrom
(12.45 Cheltenham)

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

12.30 Squire Silk. 1.00 Scotoni. 1.30 Kaytak. 2.00 Martomick. 2.35 Bagalino. 3.10 Mere Class. 3.45 Broughton's Tango.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN BACK STRAIGHT) — SIS

12.30 DOWNS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,234: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

1	2332	BILLY BORU 7 (D,F,S) R Simpson 5-11-5	D Gallagher	78
2		LUCKY LORENZO P Hedger 5-10-12	M Richards	–
3	43/0	MEADOW COTTAGE 14 J Gifford 7-10-12	P Hide (3)	–
4		METROPOLIS N Gaselee 6-10-12	R Supple	–
5	222-	SPARKLING SUNSET 248 N Henderson 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	(5)
6	0-65	SQUIRE SILK 24 A Turnell 4-10-12	D Fortt (7)	59
7	3	THE BUD CLUB 69 K Bailey 5-10-12	N Williamson	58
8	35-5	HALL END LADY 24 J White 5-10-7	B Clifford	–
9	-P00	MY BOOKS ARE BEST 14 B Stove 4-10-7	Leesa Long	54
10	0	WORLDLY PROSPECT 35 Miss H Beay 5-10-7	D Meade (7)	–

5-4 Sparkling Sunset, 7-2 Billy Boru, 11-2 The Bud Club, 7-1 Meadow Cottage, Squire Silk, 8-1 Metropolis, 12-1 others.

1.00 PEAK HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,682: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1	-221	RICHVILLE 11 (F,G,S) K Bailey 7-11-10	N Williamson	93
2	-423	SCOTONI 12F (C,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 7-11-1	D O'Sullivan	88
3	2-14	ZAMIL 16 (D,G,S) K Bease 8-10-13	Mr A Fitzgerald	(5)
4	2432	KISU KALI 11 (CD,F,G,S) J Fitch-Heyes 6-10-2	M Richards	91

5-4 Richville, 3-1 Kisu Kali, 7-2 Scotoni, 5-1 Zamil.

1.30 TJH GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,436: 2m 110yd) (6)

1	-021	BIG MATT 47 (D,G) N Henderson 5-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	–
2	P0-1	HERE HE COMES 9 (CD,G,S) R Akehurst 7-11-13	S Ryan (7)	95
3	561-	BUONARROTI 228 (C,G,S) J Old 5-11-4	T Grantham	(5)
4	F0-9	MASAI MARA 11 (D,F,G) T Jones 5-10-5	J Railton	80
5	01F-	KAYTAK 280 (D,F,S) J Jenkins 6-10-2	N Williamson	93
6	4-4P	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 9 (D,G,S) G Charles-Jones 5-10-0	D Meade (7)	92

7-4 Here He Comes, 9-4 Big Matt, 3-1 Buonarroti, 10-1 Kaytak, 12-1 Masai Mara, 20-1 Whippers Delight.

2.00 LOWNDES LAMBERT DECEMBER NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £9,375: 3m) (6)
SKY

1	0-P5	BLACK CHURCH 16 R Rowe 7-11-0	H Davies	–
2	-124	EMA ENDEAVOUR 22 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	D Bridgwater	83
3	6-1U	HILLWALK 17 (BF,S) R Cooke 7-11-0	D Morris	86
4	10-1	MR FLANAGAN 15 (D,G) C Brooks 7-11-0	G Bradley	90
5	-212	RIVELEIGH FIRST 22 (G) J Upson 5-10-13	R Supple	77
6	-111	MARTOMICK 21 (D,F,G,S) K Bailey 6-10-13	N Williamson	(5)

☐ Trainer states that Mr Flanagan is a doubtful runner

5-4 Martomick, 4-1 Shia Gwaliagh, Hillwalk, 5-1 Mr Flanagan, 8-1 Fivileigh First, 50-1 Black Church.

2.35 WETTON CLEANING SUMMIT
SKY
JUNIOR HURDLE (Grade II: £6,460: 2m 110yd) (8)

1	111	BURNT IMP 42 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 11-5	J Callaghan	96
2	1	BAGALINO 8 (D,G) G Harwood 11-2	M Perrett	93
3	21	GRAND APPLAUSE 31 (D,G) R Simpson 11-2	D Gallagher	93
4	1	ADMIRAL'S WELL 9 (D,G) R Akehurst 10-12	M Fitzgerald	(5)
5	22	HOSTILE WITNESS 18 (B,BF) P Hedger 10-12	M Richards	94
6		KARAR 86F R Rowe 10-12	H Davies	–
7	1	NAWAR 11 (D,S) J Jenkins 10-12	J Railton	94
8	64	TACTICAL TOMMY 28 N Twiston-Davies 10-12	D Bridgwater	80

3-1 Admiral's Well, 4-1 Bagalino, Nawar, 9-2 Burnt Imp, 7-1 Grand Applause, 8-1 Hostile Witness, 16-1 Tactical Tommy, 20-1 Karar.

3.10 LONGFIELD PARK PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£7,148: 3m) (4)
SKY

1	111U	MERE CLASS 7 (D,BF,F,S) C Brooks 7-11-11	G Bradley	95
2	P-P1	LAKE TEEREEN 8 (F,G,S) R Rowe 8-11-4	T Grantham	(5)
3	14-4	THE WIDGET MAN 98 (F,G,S) J Gifford 7-11-0	P Hide (3)	82
4	51-P	AVONBURN 31 (D,F,G,S) P Hedger 9-10-13	M Richards	83

6-4 Mere Class, 9-4 Lake Teereen, 3-1 The Widget Man, 6-1 Avonburn.

3.45 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,640: 2m 3f 110yd) (7)

1	025/	YOUR WELL 738 (G,S) J White 7-12-0	B Clifford	–
2	214P	ATLAAL 24 (F,G,S) J Jenkins 8-12-0	J Railton	–
3	350/0	STORM DRUM 17 (F,S) K Bailey 4-10-6	N Williamson	(5)
4	-512	MANEREE 10 (D,G,S) N Callaghan 6-10-0	R Campbell	94
5	31-5	BROUGHTON'S TANGO 12 (F) M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-0	S Keightley	86
6	F/1-	RAMBLE 318 (G) J Old 5-10-0	T Grantham	61
7	430-	NUT TREE 236 (G) R Phillips 8-10-0	D Bridgwater	75

7-4 Maneree, 3-1 Storm Drum, 9-2 Broughton's Tango, 5-1 Atlaal, 10-1 Ramble, Your Well, 50-1 Nut Tree.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 6 winners from 12 runners, 50.0%; R Simpson, 6 from 16, 37.5%; J Old, 7 from 24, 29.2%; R Akehurst, 14 from 51, 27.5%; J Upson, 3 from 11, 27.3%; N Henderson, 6 from 25, 24%; J Fitch-Heyes, 7 from 30, 23.3%.

JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%; T Grantham, 5 from 20, 25.0%; H Davies, 24 from 100, 24.0%; M Perrett, 11 from 57, 19.3%; S Keightley, 8 from 45, 17.4%; J Railton, 5 from 34, 14.7%.

EDINBURGH

THUNDERER

12.50 Lady Donoghue. 1.20 Inverinate. 1.50 Irish Stamp. 2.20 Kushbaloo. 2.50 Speech. 3.20 Mystic Memory.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) — SIS

12.50 CHARLOTTE SQUARE NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,998: 2m) (10 runners)

1	4-13	AMERICAN HERO 37F (D,G) R Allan 5-11-4	B Storey	
2	-221	LADY DONOGHUE 57 (D,B) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13	P Niven	
3	-24F	BACK BEFORE DAWN 29 P Monteith 6-10-12	A Dobbin	
4	431-	CLEEVAUR 187 (D,G) J J O'Neill 5-10-12	P Williams	(5)
5	53/4	IMPERIAL BID 42F (BF) Denys Smith 5-10-12	P Waggott	(5)
6	PP-3	ROAD TO THE WEIR 73 Mrs S Bramall 6-10-12	J Burke	(5)
7		THE MARMALADE CAT Mrs A Russell 4-10-12	K Jones	
8	6	WALKING THE PLANK 37 (B,BF) N Tinkler 4-10-12	D Byrne	
9	0	BREEZE AWAY 35 D Eddy 4-10-7	C Grant	
10	0/0-	VALLEY OF TIME 37F D Nolan 5-10-7	R Hodge	

3-1 American Hero, 100-30 Cleevaur, 7-2 Lady Donoghue, 4-1 Walking The Plank, 10-1 Imperial Bid, 12-1 Back Before Dawn, 25-1 others.

1.20 RUSTY NAIL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,426: 3m) (10)

1	4315	INVERINATE 11 (D,F,G,S) L Lungo 8-12-0	T Reed	
2	13U2	SCOTTISH GOLD 4 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Perrett 9-11-11	P Williams	(5)
3	1220	CLARE LAD 5 (F,G,S) R Allan 10-11-10	B Storey	
4	P-23	MOYDDE RESIENT 22 R Lamb 9-11-7	J Burke	(5)
5	-641	TIMANFAYA 5 (C,F) W Reed 6-11-5 (6ex)	C Grant	
6	-65P	MASTER MISCHIEF 30 F Watson 5-10-9	R Hodge	
7	6-40	JUNIORS CHOICE 5 J Threadgill 10-10-5	Mr A Parker	(7)
8	003	RUSHING BURN 29 J Charlton 7-10-3	P Niven	
9	5244	CANDEMIER 5 J Bewley 5-10-2	S Turner	
10	F62F	FLASS VALE 24 (F) C Fairhurst 5-10-2	A Dobney	

2-1 Scottish Gold, 3-1 Flass Vale, 5-1 Inverinate, Timanfaya, 10-1 Moyodde Regent, 12-1 Clare Lad, 16-1 others.

1.50 EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY TURF CLUB MAIDEN HURDLE (£1,956: 3m) (9)

1	43F	DASHMAR 11 M Ware 5-11-0	C Dennis
2	0-2	IRISH STAMP 21 (BF) J Pearce 4-11-0	C Grant
3	0	LORD ADVOCATE 11 (V) D Nolan 5-11-0	D J Moffatt (3)
4	45-4	MAJOR BELL 11 A Watkins 5-11-0	M Moloney
5	0	THE LORRYMAN 5 W Reed 5-11-0	T Reed
6	6	WEY I MAN 80 R Collins 4-11-0	P Niven
7	5/PU	HIGHRYMER 38 J Threadgill 9-10-9	A Dobbin
8	0	LA DOUTELLE 28 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-9	Mr J Bradburne
9	08-0	ROYAL RIFE 29 Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-9	P Williams (5)

11-10 Irish Stamp, 3-1 Major Bell, 5-1 Dashmar, 7-1 Lord Advocate, 16-1 others.

2.20 I WANT TO BE RICH HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,061: 2m) (5)

1	2152	KUSHBALOO 28 (F,G) C Parker 8-11-10	B Storey	
2	1142	CROSS CANNON 45 (F,G) J Holmes 7-11-9	A Larnach	(3)
3	3331	MAUDLINS CROSS 22 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-6	P Niven	
4	2231	SONSIE MO 9 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-13 (6ex)	P Williams	(5)
5	2F-2	ROCKET LAUNCHER 32 (D,F,S) J Berry 7-10-8	M Moloney	

2-1 Rocket Launcher, 100-30 Maudlins Cross, 4-1 Sonsie Mo, 6-1 Kushbaloo, 8-1 Cross Cannon.

2.50 PRINCES STREET CLAIMING CHASE
(£2,603: 2m 4f) (4)

1	6P90	SPEECH 5 (D,F) Miss J Rae 10-11-4	F Perrett	(5)
2	5243	LAPIAFFE 21 (CD,F,G,S) A Harrison 9-11-2	B Storey	
3	0FFF	MOW CREEK 11 Mrs S Bradburne 9-11-0	P Williams	(5)
4	F450	WHEELIES NEWMEMBER 36 (D,F) Mrs A Hamilton 10-11-0	T Reed	

4-7 Lapiaffe, 9-4 Wheelies Newmember, 8-1 Speech, 20-1 Mow Creek.

3.20 LADBROKES ON-COURSE HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,295: 2m 4f) (7)

1	-113	MYSTIC MEMORY 35 (D,F,G)	

American confident of repeating victory of two years ago in first race of season

Kitt ready to pick up the pieces of downhill challenge

FROM DAVID POWELL IN VAL D'ISÈRE

THE first men's World Cup downhill ski race of the season takes place here today with A. J. Kitt optimistic that he can maintain his recent dominance of the OK piste. It would at least make up for last year if the New Yorker could repeat his victory of 1991.

When Kitt won here two years ago, Jean Claude-Killy, the first downhill World Cup champion and joint president of the 1992 Winter Olympics organising committee, said he was delighted for the sport that the American had won. "Skiing," Killy said, "has desperately needed new blood, someone not from Austria or Switzerland."

But Kitt's success proved nothing more than an interlude. One Swiss, Franz Heinzer, has accumulated three successive World Cup downhill titles and one of his compatriots, Urs Lehmann, is the world champion. Kitt is still waiting for his second World Cup race win, though he would have had it here last year had a snowstorm not blown the £14,000 winner's cheque from his grasp.

The race was called off a quarter of the way through with Kitt leading. By that time, though, all the best downhill skiers had gone, including the 15 seeds, so it was reasonable to assume that he would have won.

Feeling sympathy for him, the race organisers paid him token prize-money. "I spent it all in Val d'Isère," Kitt recalled yesterday. "Mainly in restaurants, taking the team out to dinner."

Kitt is the personality which downhill, the blue riband event of Alpine ski racing, urgently needs, in the way that Alberto Tomba, of Italy, has given the slalom public appeal. Travelling at speeds that exceed the limits set for motorways in Britain, downhillers risk serious injury, even death. But Kitt would have it no other way.

"I like being on the edge," he said after his victory here. Nothing has changed. "If anything the thrill of it is gaining pace," Kitt said yesterday. "The better I get, the faster I am able to go down the mountain." His sport is daring and so is his haircut. This season he has shaved his head. "I was getting tired of my mother telling me I looked like Bruce Willis."

Though he finished 25th in training yesterday, Kitt said it should be disregarded as an indication of his potential for today. "I took it easy," he said. "I feel ready to go out and take three or four seconds off my time. I am in better shape now than I have ever been."

Suggestions that the World Cup season is too long, lasting as it does until the end of March, and that races should have fewer competitors are supported by Kitt. However, after a meeting held here yesterday between World Cup and International Ski Federation (FIS) officials, it was disclosed that next season will be busier.

The World Cup season has been expanded from 34 to 36 races. Kitt takes the view, as many observers do, that the World Cup should end in mid February before a world championships or Winter Olympics. The Olympics and world championships, Kitt said, should be "the final hurrah of the season". He favours later races but only as special events made for television.

The proposal from the Norwegian federation for a circuit reduced to 28 events also included a recommendation for fields to be restricted to the leading 50 in rankings plus limited wild-card entries. It is understood that this, too, has been rejected.

If so, the prospect of Britain losing at a stroke its participation in the men's World Cup has disappeared. None of Britain's three downhillers here, Martin Bell, Graham Bell and Roger Walker is ranked in the top 50. However, Martin Bell showed his determination yesterday to move up, finishing 28th in training, only 0.10sec behind Kitt.

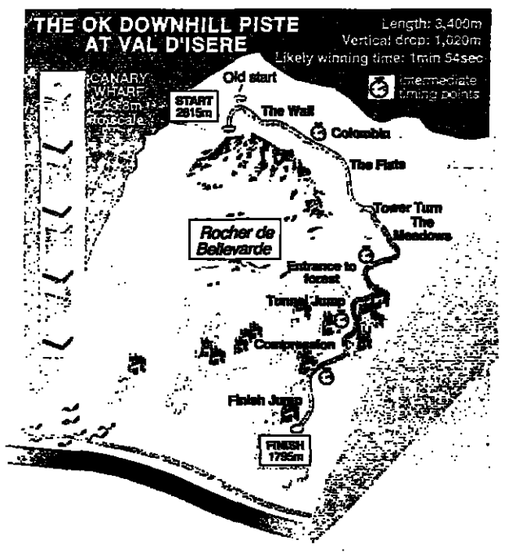
☐ This weekend's women's World Cup downhill at Veysonnaz, Switzerland, was cancelled yesterday because the piste was too soft. The warm weather had already forced the race organisers to move the race from yesterday to today and conditions failed to improve overnight. It is hoped to hold the giant slalom today and the slalom tomorrow.

BOB MARTIN/ALLSPORT



Kitt prepares to embark on a new season of World Cup downhill racing at Val d'Isère, where he has held sway in recent years

Formula for success involves relaxing at 85mph



Ronald Duncan, the former British No 1 downhill skier, gives his guide to the course

THE OK course at Val d'Isère for the *première neige* is traditionally viewed as a loosener. Provided the snow is fast, the course provides the step between glacier training and World Cup downhill racing.

However, with the raising of the start to the Olympic position and the addition of an extra jump, the course still has teeth. Due to its relative ease, it tests a downhiller's key skill — the ability to generate speed in the easy sections.

Launching out of the new start, you pole, push and tuck, keeping your shoulders down; by the old start you are doing over 80mph. The first turn is long, onto the flat, with a roll in the middle. You start turning gently, gradually tighten up, let the skis come up over the bump and extend into the far side, accelerate out and into tuck. The turn takes 1½ seconds.

You are onto a short flat, concentrating on gliding. It feels slow. You veer to the left for the Wall, rise up slightly, lift your legs and fly for 60 metres, down the Wall. You land in the tuck, and by the bottom it feels quite fast — it's dark, slightly bumpy and over 85mph. For more speed you press your skis into the transition, from steep to flat, and start the first of five easy turns down to the Colombin jump.

Colombin is quite easy with plenty of time to prepare. Get it right and you fly, nicely balanced, for about 50 metres, three feet off the ground at about 85mph. Get it wrong and the wind lifts you skywards as your tips rise up; gravity prevails and you land on your back on the flat 70 metres later. Roland Colombin got it wrong twice and both times broke his back. The second time he left his name and the sport.

Your jump determines your speed across the Flats. The first crucial turn of the course is the Tower turn, the key to your speed through the Meadows down to the Compression. Before the Compression there is a 30-40 metre hop — the Tunnel Jump. Then you accelerate down the hill, in the shade, to the bumpy right-hander, it feels fast here. Line is unimportant, the objective is to carry speed into the Compression, a critical section where you jump out of the hollow into a pair of turns.

For the Compression, you climb slightly up the bank, skis rattling as you change edge. You dive off the bank, push hard into the dip, and absorb the edge. Helmut Hoeflehner got it wrong a couple of years ago and landed in the safety netting.

Spat out of the Compression on line, the turns are easy, and you keep your speed, along the flat, over the last jump — another 30-metre hop — and round the turn to the finish.

The winner here will need good skis and gliding skills to make speed on the top, and the patience and timing to carry the speed through the turns to the finish. You need confidence and desire to go fast and the trick is to balance striving to be as aerodynamic as possible with making relaxed round turns.

Cobbing's start fails to take off

RICHARD Cobbing, who carries British hopes of a first Winter Olympic medal on skis, could finish only fourteenth in the first World Cup freestyle aerials competition of the season in Tignes yesterday (David Powell writes).

Not that he was concerned by his lowly position. Cobbing had been restricted to three days practice on snow. In the first of his two jumps, a triple somersault with a single twist, (lay-tuck-full), he misjudged his take-off and fell on landing, scoring only 67.55 points.

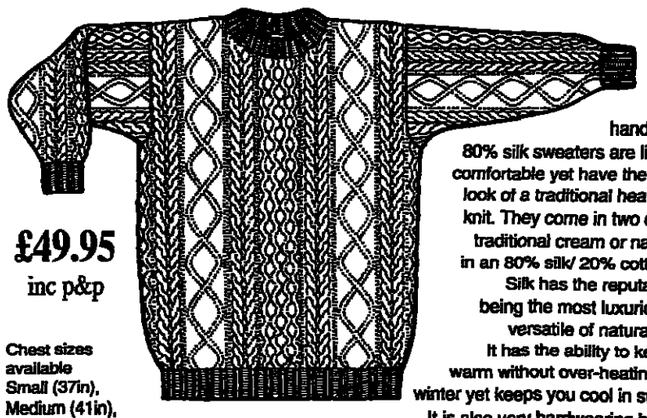
"I did not put enough attack into my take-off," Cobbing said. "If I'd had a week of training I would have jumped a lot better." He came here a fortnight ago, after training on a water ramp, but the snow conditions were too poor to practise jumping. His second jump was an improvement on his first, scoring 108.87 for a triple somersault with a double twist (lay-full-full).

"I will probably do another seven World Cup events before the Olympics and my plan is to build through the season," Cobbing added. "All that matters is that I perform well in the Olympics."

Cobbing started the last World Cup season slowly, producing his best form when it mattered, finishing second in the world championships in Altenmarkt, Austria. The world champion, Philippe Laroche, of Canada, was fourth yesterday, Trace Worthington, of the United States, winning the event.

Results, page 39

THE TIMES
READER OFFER
80% SILK ARAN SWEATERS



£49.95 inc p&p

These hand-knitted 80% silk sweaters are light and comfortable yet have the rugged look of a traditional heavy Aran knit. They come in two colours; traditional cream or navy blue in an 80% silk/ 20% cotton mix.

Silk has the reputation for being the most luxurious and versatile of natural fibres. It has the ability to keep you warm without over-heating in the winter yet keeps you cool in summer. It is also very hardwearing but feels incredibly soft against the skin

Chest sizes available Small (37in), Medium (41in), Large (44in), XL (48in).

The sweaters can be hand or machine-washed on a cool programme and simply laid flat to dry.

HOW TO ORDER

Cranleigh (0483) 268888 for enquiries and 24-hour credit card service OR Fill in the coupon quoting your Access/Visa number, or send with crossed cheque/postal orders. NO CASH please to: THE TIMES SILK ARAN SWEATER OFFER, J.E.M. HOUSE, LITTLE MEAD, CRANLEIGH, SURREY GU6 8ND.
We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me: _____ Aran Sweater(s) @ £49.95 each inc p&p

Tick size & colour	S	M	L	XL	*2nd Colour
Cream					
Navy					

* Please tick if you will accept 2nd colour choice

I enclose a crossed cheque/PO (address on back please) value £_____ made payable to THE TIMES SILK ARAN SWEATER OFFER
Or debit my Access/Visa account with the sum of £_____ (no cash please).
My card number is: (Delete as appropriate)
Expiry date
Mr/Mrs/Miss: _____ INITIALS _____ PLEASE PRINT
Address: _____
_____ Postcode: _____
Signature: _____ Daytime Tel. No. _____
Send to: THE TIMES SILK ARAN SWEATER OFFER
J.E.M. House, Littlemead, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8ND.
☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from The Times or companies approved by them.
TIM1025

Barrington stays in hard school

Andrew Longmore finds a celebrated former squash player still obsessed by a quest for perfection in his role as coach

The knees creak a bit, but the mind is sharp and the soul restless. A glance at the bookshelf reveals the sort of company he keeps. Biographies of Chris Bonington, Rocky Marciano, Gary Player, Seb Coe. Jonah Barrington can rub shoulders with the toughest in sport.

He is still going too, finding out the physical limits of a 52-year-old with touches of arthritis, pushing at barriers, seeking the same perfection in others he once sought so fanatically in himself. After decades of mental and physical pounding, the passion for the game of squash burns as brightly in the courts of Millfield School, where he coaches part-time, as it does working with the best in the game. Last month, he coached England to the semi-finals of the world squash championships in Pakistan and guided two England players, Peter Marshall and Chris Walker, to the semi-finals of the singles.

This weekend, he is helping promote an eight-man special event in Bombay. In Karachi, he entered squash's hall of fame, planted a tree in honour of a new squash complex and was the only foreigner invited to an evening in celebration of Pakistan's champions. In a country that appreciates squash, Barrington is revered as one of their own.

On court, Barrington was unflinching, as strong as any of the great Khan family, as forbidding and indestructible as the Glastonbury Tor that stands lookout over his back garden. He would deliberately prolong the opening point of a match so that his opponent would know what kind of private hell he was entering. Barrington regards squash as boxing without the bloodshed.

"The relationship between the players on court is so close, physically and emotionally, you cannot show any sign of weakness. I thought the game better than anyone else, though I was not as physically gifted. But my fitness frightened my opponents and more often than not they would back off well before they reached breaking point.

"I'm not a masochist, but I enjoyed testing myself and feeling I was winning the battle. I'm still doing it. Limping round the court and training. I'll probably fall over one day, but I'll keep going until I do." Nearly 20 years after he hit a mental wall and retired, having won the British Open title six times, that iron streak is visible, but well disguised behind an infectious laugh and a good line in self-denigration.

His description of himself and Geoff Hunt, meeting at tournaments and "hobbling" around the gym, still competing with each other as they did so ferociously on court, is a telling comment on the Cornishman's inner spirit as well as the unforgiving nature of squash.

Barrington used to train on Christmas Day, just for Hunt. Once a competitor, always a competitor, even down to outplaying schoolboys who have no idea how close they have come to greatness. Certain subjects are guaranteed to stoke the old fires, though. For much of his career, Barrington was at odds with the Establishment. He despised its Corinthian notions and, as a matter of principle, disagreed with everything it said. Proving it wrong gave him a focus when winning alone was no longer enough. A chip on the shoulder, he admits, but an important one.

After working for the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) for the past five years as director of excellence, a review of the game's structure recently recommended that Barrington's contract should not be renewed at the end of the year and that the elite should be left to look after itself.

The official explanation was lack of money, but Barrington remains a maverick, a self-confessed "rogue elephant" and far too single-minded for some committee men, who have never ventured far enough outside their marble pavilions to see him at work. He will probably be used on a consultancy rather than a full-time basis in the future, which would be a typical but not ideal compromise.

"People like Edberg, Lendl and Faldo don't pay coaches and mentors to do nothing. They know they are good value. Squash players cannot afford to hire a coach full-time, but we need to give the best players all the help we can."

Tactfully, Barrington blames the government for not recognising the importance of financing sport more than the SRA. "Too much is being done in the wrong areas. Expensive and unsuccessful Olympic bids, for example. If the government cannot understand how vital sport is to the social fabric, it never will. Yet there still seems to be no balance."

What saddens Barrington most is that, financially, the game in England has gone backwards since he left. Only the top England players can earn a living, money from sponsorship is scarce and television has shown only a token interest. Barrington estimates he earned more in his day than they do now and he has a comfortable way of life.

> 'For much of his career he was at odds with the Establishment and disagreed with everything it said'

"It will be very difficult for the game to progress if the profile is not lifted," he said. "I think we are beginning to understand the importance of the shop window. What emerged from the world championships was that the English team had the most promising future. But we have to look after our professionals from the moment they come into the game so that they can bridge the gap between young man and mature adult. Otherwise we will lose them."

But how much involvement will Barrington now have in that development? "There are some positive signs that I will have a real role to play, but I'm not sure quite what the arrangement will be. I'm not going anywhere."



Barrington: maverick of British squash

هكذا من الأصل

International jury to rule on time lost in attempt to help stricken yacht

Butterworth in row over rescue mission

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN FREMANTLE

BRAD Butterworth and the crew on board his yacht, Winston, sailed straight into a row when they arrived here in western Australia yesterday to take fifth place in their class at the end of the second stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Butterworth says his boat lost 24 hours in turning back towards Brooksfield, the Italian yacht, to rescue her crew when they sent out a distress call a week ago. If that is granted by the international jury, the time allowance would push Winston ahead of her rivals to win the leg and lift her to second place overall.

"That does not reflect reality," Lawrie Smith, the skipper of the winning yacht, Intrum Justitia, complained. "Winston was 250 miles behind us and in a very bad tactical position well to the north of the fleet. There is no way they could have caught us up."

Ross Field, skipper of the third-placed New Zealand entry, Yamaha, was even more forthright. "Winston was 104 miles behind us when she turned back and in a bad situation tactically," he said. "We only pulled back 50 miles on Smith and they were 104 miles behind us. I don't believe they could have overtaken us. I'm certain they would not have overtaken Intrum Justitia. According to my estimates, they should get no more than six hours."

The rescue dash by Winston and the French maxi, La Poste, which reached the stricken Italian yacht and stood by for 24 hours until her crew had made their yacht seaworthy, has created a dilemma for the organisers. Both yachts lost considerable time and La Poste was still 500 miles from port yesterday. But in trailing behind the fleet, both crews managed to avoid the high-pressure system that left the leaders all but becalmed for a day during their final approach to Australia, while Intrum Justitia was barely moving at 2½ knots earlier this week, Winston was speeding at 16.

Grant Dalton, skipper of New Zealand Endeavour, which enjoys a comfortable lead over rivals in the maxi class despite losing the top section of her mizzen maston this leg, had a counter-argument: "I believe that in Winston and La Poste's case, they should receive the same elapsed time as the class leaders. Neither skipper baulked at returning to help and should be generously rewarded for what they did."

Butterworth said that the time spent beating back against the might of the Southern Ocean was the worst night of his life. "We had three reefs in the main and a storm jib up. The boat was falling off huge waves and things got a bit scary. Luckily La Poste found them. Brooksfield was potentially in a lot of trouble."

Of his claim for redress, Winston's skipper, who replaced Dennis Conner on this leg, admitted: "It will be a controversial decision, but you can't muck about with people's lives. We paid a price and now we just want a fair decision."

Gordon Maguire, one of Winston's watch leaders, said: "All we want is the time that it took us to go back to Brooksfield and return to our position. No more and no less."

The International jury, chaired by Marcel Leeman, from Belgium, plans to hear the case next Tuesday, once Daniel Malle and La Poste have reached port and can give their version of events.

SECOND LEG: (Punta del Este, Uruguay, to Fremantle, Australia): Whitbread 60 class: Finishers: 1, Intrum Justitia (L Smith, Eur), 25 days 14hr 39min; 2, Tokio (C Dickson, NZ), 25:16.39; 3, Yamaha (R Field, NZ), 25:20.27; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova (J de la Gandara, Sp), 25:22.10; 5, Winston (B Butterworth, US), 26:12.08). Overall (subject to redress): 1, Tokio, 50:03.07; 2, Intrum Justitia, 50:17.19; 3, Yamaha, 50:17.58; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova, 50:18.41; 5, Winston, 51:11.58. Maxi class: 1, Merit Cup (P Fehlmann, Switz), 25:21.11; 2, NZ Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ), 25:22.57. Overall: 1, NZ Endeavour, 50:08.16; 2, Merit Cup, 50:12:53.

OTHER POSITIONS (at 1400 GMT yesterday with miles to Fremantle): Whitbread 60 class: 6, Heiman Sehsidechny (E Platon, Ukr), 676; 7, Women's Challenge (D Riley, US), 909; 8, Brooksfield (G Massio, It), 1,000 (estimate); 9, Odessa (A Verbe, Ukr), 1,264; 10, Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB), 1,468.

Maxi class: 3, La Poste (D Melle, Fr), 543; 4, Uruguay Natural (G Vancini, Uru), 1,260.

Results provided by BT



MARK PEPPER

Winston arrives at Fremantle in fifth place in her class after a rescue dash which her skipper, Brad Butterworth, claims cost her 24 hours

SPORT IN BRIEF

Donington missing from fixture list

DONINGTON'S fading hopes of staging a Formula One grand prix for the second successive year were snuffed out yesterday when the world council of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) allowed organisers of an Argentine event more time to prepare and omitted the Leicestershire track from the calendar (Oliver Holt writes).

The Buenos Aires race, the first in the country for 13 years, had been scheduled to begin the new season on March 20. But it has been dogged by demonstrations from residents living in the historic Palermo district and has been postponed until October 16. It has only provisional status.

GRAND PRIX CALENDAR: Mar 27: Brazilian (Sao Paulo). Apr 17: Pacific (Aida, Japan) May 1: San Marino (Imola); 15: Monaco. 29: Spanish (Barcelona). June 12: Canadian (Montreal). July 3: French (Magny-Cours); 10: British (Silverstone); 31: German (Hockenheim) Aug 14: Hungarian (Budapest); 28: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps) Sept 11: Italian (Monza); 25: Portuguese (Estoril). Oct 16: Argentine (Buenos Aires; provisional). Nov 6: Japanese (Suzuka); 13: Australian (Adelaide)

Games schedule grows

CYCLING: Five new Olympic events, including one for mountain bikes, will be included at the Games in Atlanta in 1996, but the 100 kilometres road team time-trial will be taken off the programme (Peter Bryan writes). The announcement follows talks between the the sport's governing body and the International Olympic Committee. The main change is the introduction of individual time-trials for men and women, over, probably, 45 kilometres and 30 kilometres respectively. Ian Emmerson, the president of the British Cycling Federation, said that the decision would dispel fears that cycling is due to disappear from the Games.

Test player in hospital

CRICKET: Greg Matthews, of New South Wales, the former Australian all-rounder, was "very ill" in a Perth hospital yesterday after receiving a blow to the head in a non-cricketing incident on Wednesday night. Matthews, 33, who has played for his country on 33 occasions, was reported to be in pain and vomiting blood. Neil Marks, manager of New South Wales, who are playing Western Australia in a Sheffield Shield match, refused to give details about how Matthews sustained the injury.

Bruno not interested

BOXING: Frank Bruno has turned down the chance to challenge Henry Akinwande for the European heavyweight title. Bruno has told the British Board of Control that he does not wish to be considered as the European Boxing Union's mandatory contender for a title he held eight years ago. He prefers to concentrate on a warm-up fight following his defeat by Lennox Lewis. Gary Jacobs will return to Paris to defend his European welterweight title against the Zaire-born Tex Nkalankete on February 1.

Kelly cleared of assault

RUGBY LEAGUE: Neil Kelly, the Dewsbury hooker, has been cleared by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee of elbowing a Swinton opponent. Kelly was mistakenly sent off by the referee, Gerry Kershaw, during the second division match last Sunday. The actual culprit, the scrum half, Mark Conway, was suspended yesterday for two matches. Barry Williams, the Carlisle and Wales hooker, was banned for four games after being found guilty of punching a Ryedale-York player.

BEST TRAVEL NEWS OF THE YEAR — 20 PER CENT OFF HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE, EXCLUSIVE TO TIMES READERS

Go places — at 20% off

Here's the best, and simplest, holiday offer ever: you and your family can save 20 per cent from the cost of hundreds of selected holidays worldwide. Within weeks you could be booking for, say, the sun and an idyllic beach hotel, a cruise in the Mediterranean or the Caribbean, a magnificent tour of India, China or Peru, or a fortnight in the exotic Far East. With the help of leading tour operators, *The Times* has arranged for the cost of holidays like this to be cut by a full 20 per cent per person. Two people could easily save from £100 to more than £3,000 on some holidays. Even groups are entitled to the 20 per cent saving. Many tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing: even car hire, travel insurance and tipping.

Over the past three weeks *The Times* has featured all of the holidays organised by the tour operators participating in this offer. For full details, simply phone the Brochure Hotline or send a written request to *The Times* Brochure Service (see below). You may request as many free brochures as you wish. Getting your discount is so simple: You need collect only ten tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. If you have just read about the offer, you can still obtain tokens from copies of *The Times* published since November 18 from the Backdates Dept, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form. If you choose to collect 20 tokens, you can use the additional ten on a second holiday.

- You can take your holiday(s) at any time to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected ten tokens per holiday.
- The 20 per cent discount will apply to any holiday featured with no restriction on price.
- When you have chosen your holiday, complete the relevant tour operator's booking form and send it with the required deposit and ten Times tokens to: *The Times* Travel Offer, Cox & Kings Travel, St James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF. Bookings must be received by February 20, 1994.
- The offer is subject to the terms and conditions published in *The Times* on November 18.

READ THE TIMES — AND GO PLACES!

TOKEN No 21

This is the last token. You need collect only ten to apply for this offer



OPERATORS

TO get a brochure from any of the operators below, phone the Brochure Hotline, or write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Scotland, PA23 8PQ, quote ref 21. You may request as many brochures as you need:

ASIA VOYAGES
CARIBTOURS
CARRIER TOURS
COX & KINGS
INSIGHT HOLIDAYS
JASMIN TOURS
JETSET
ROYAL CRUISE LINE
ROYAL VIKING LINE
SWAN HELLENIC
SKI TOP DECK
TREK AMERICA

BROCHURE HOTLINE
0369 5335

Please allow 14 days for delivery of your brochure

Aussie pride

Every city has something to boast about, food, wine or the great outdoors

Australians fondly refer to their land as the "lucky country" and even to the jaded eye it's easy to see why. It boasts dramatic landscapes, cosmopolitan cities, tropical rain forests, the Great Barrier Reef, wide white beaches and a variety of wildlife found nowhere else in the world.

You can pan for gold in an outback stream, lose yourself in the solitude of a country sheep farm or immerse yourself in the fast pace of the vibrant cities. For the more active, there's the ultimate challenge: attempting to outsail or outsurf the Aussies in their warm home waters.

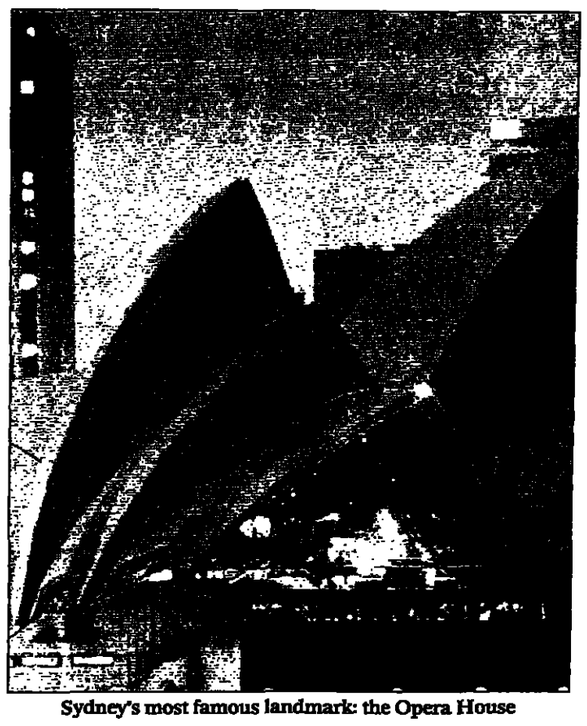
No trip to Oz would be complete without a visit to Sydney, the capital of New South Wales and recently-appointed host city for the 2000 Olympics. The Opera House fronting the spectacular harbour has become its most famous landmark and the city is best seen from the water, either from paddle-steamers, harbour cruises or even the ferries which bustle to and fro.

With harbour and coast so close, it's no surprise that Sydneysiders are fond of seafood, including local rock oysters, prawns, crabs, lobster and octopus. Whichever city you visit, you will find the hospitable locals boasting, quite justifiably, about something or other: the nightlife and a great variety of comedians in Melbourne; arts and wine festivals in Adelaide; top-class yachting in Perth.

Darwin, in the north, is the starting point for tours of "Crocodile Dundee" country. Brisbane is the gateway to the Gold Coast, while Cairns is the main link to the barrier reef.

All these cities plus Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, can be used as gateways to the great Australian outdoors, whether rain forest, the "red centre" around Ayers Rock, wilderness areas or huge inland waterways. The country is blessed with such a huge array of natural resources that it's easy to understand Aussie pride in "Godzone" country.

MADELINE PROBART



Sydney's most famous landmark: the Opera House

Dreams come true

More than 20,000 readers have requested a brochure from one of the tour operators participating in *The Times* "Go Places" promotion. The response has both surprised and delighted the companies which are now coping with the flood of applications and arranging bookings. The offer has given thousands of readers the chance to turn their travel dreams into reality while stimulating others to consider their own holiday trips of the future.

Many of the holidays on offer have been concentrated on long haul-destinations which are becoming increasingly popular — as long range flying becomes both easy and comfortable and luxury liners turn cruising into something like five-star hotel living.

These holidays are hardly run-of-the-mill packages, however, and those travelling to the Caribbean or the Far East, to India or the vast open plains of America can still feel different from and, perhaps, a little luckier than the mass of package tourists. These destinations are also becoming affordable, especially at 20 per cent off.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

TODAY'S FEATURED OPERATOR: JETSET

Jetset operate in Australia and the Far East using the world's major airlines and an unrivalled range of accommodation, sightseeing, tours, cruises and rental cars. Jetset tailor holidays to every need and budget, combining a variety of countries and stopovers in one holiday.

SINGAPORE SINGLE CENTRE: A 7-day tour to Singapore, flying with British Airways and staying at the Miramar Hotel, exploring the multicultural city state. *Departs 14 April 1994, £734 (down from £918)* Save £184

BANGKOK SINGLE CENTRE: A 9-day tour of Bangkok, flying with British Airways and staying for 7 nights at the Asia Hotel. *Departs 20 May 1994, £636 (down from £795)* Save £159

HONG KONG SINGLE CENTRE: A 9-day tour to Hong Kong, flying with British Airways and staying at the Park Hotel. *Departs 1 June 1994, £832 (down from £1,040)* Save £208

HONG KONG, BANGKOK AND SINGAPORE: This 15-day tour is an opportunity to enjoy Asia in comfort. *Departs 1 June 1994, £959 (down from £1,199)* Save £240

SINGAPORE AND BALI: A 12-day tour that allows you to enjoy Singapore and then relax on Bali, where you spend 7 nights on a palm-fringed beach. *Departs 10 September 1994, £999 (down from £1,249)* Save £250

BANGKOK AND PHUKET: This 13-day tour provides 4 nights in the Sheraton Royal Orchid in Bangkok and 7 nights in the Le Meridien in Phuket. Flights are with Thai International. *Departs 20 April 1994, £895 (down from £1,119)* Save £224

BALI AND LOMBOK: A 16-day tour offering an opportunity to relax on the beautiful beaches of Bali before moving on to the unspoilt island of Lombok. *Departs 6 June 1994, £1,059 (down from £1,324)* Save £265

BANGKOK, SYDNEY, CAIRNS AND SINGAPORE: An 18-day adventure beginning in Bangkok at the Asia Hotel, before flying to Sydney staying at The Royal Garden Hotel, then to Cairns staying at the Colonial Club before returning via Singapore. Flights are with Qantas airways. *Departs 10 May 1994, £1,255 (down from £1,569)* Save £314

LOS ANGELES, SYDNEY AND NEW YORK: An 18-day holiday that combines the USA and Australia. Stopover in LA, continue to Sydney for 7 days, on your return visit New York. *Departs 25 May, 1994, £1,289 (down from £1,611)* Save £322

LOS ANGELES, HONOLULU, SYDNEY, CAIRNS AND TAHITI: This 21-day holiday combines the beautiful Pacific with the USA and Australia.

Jetset

Departs 15 March 1994, £1,649 (down from £2,061) Save £412

BANGKOK, SYDNEY, AYERS ROCK, CAIRNS AND SINGAPORE: This 19-day tour offers the flavours of Singapore and Thailand in the Far East together with the most popular destinations in Australia. *Departs 20 September 1994, £1,689 (down from £2,111)* Save £422

SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE AND CAIRNS: A 23-day holiday exploring Australia. *Departs 1 September 1994, £1,645 (down from £2,056)* Save £411

BANGKOK, BALI, SYDNEY AND HONG KONG: This 22-day tour explores Bangkok and Bali, en route to Sydney and returns via Hong Kong. *Departs 23 April 1994, £1,525 (down from £1,906)* Save £381

LOS ANGELES, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH AND HONOLULU: This 24-day holiday enables you to explore LA and then enjoy the freedom of car and hotel vouchers for two weeks in New Zealand, before returning via Honolulu. *Departs 11 February 1994, £1,495 (down from £1,869)* Save £374

BANGKOK, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH AND SINGAPORE: This 24-day tour allows you to explore New Zealand with a car and hotel vouchers. En route stopovers in Bangkok and Singapore. *Departs 1 March 1994, £1,569 (down from £1,961* Save £392

LOS ANGELES, HONOLULU, AUCKLAND, SYDNEY AND SINGAPORE: Around the world in 18 days with stopovers in LA, Honolulu en route to Auckland. Return via Sydney and Singapore. *Departs 31 August 1994, £1,759 (down from £2,199)* Save £447

BANGKOK, SINGAPORE, SYDNEY, HONOLULU AND LOS ANGELES: This 24-day holiday takes you around the world stopping in Bangkok and Singapore en route to Sydney and Auckland. *Departs 23 April 1994, £1,699 (down from £2,124)* Save £425

LOS ANGELES AND FIJI: This 15-day holiday with 8 nights spent at the luxurious Regent of Fiji. *Departs 15 May 1994, £1,250 (down from £1,563)* Save £313

LOS ANGELES AND TAHITI: Visit Tahiti on this 14-day holiday breaking the outward journey in Anaheim and discover Disneyland. *Departs 2 June 1994, £1,230 (down from £1,538)* Save £308

TAHITI, FIJI AND RARATONGA: Enjoy the best of the South Pacific on this 16-day holiday. As well as visiting Fiji, Tahiti and the tropical island of Raratonga. *Departs 22 May 1994, £1,459 (down from £1,824)* Save £365

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: How do I book my holiday?
A: All communication and booking forms must be sent to *The Times* Travel Offer, Cox & Kings, St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF.

Q: How do I pay for my holiday(s)?
A: You must pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance due for your holiday(s) 10 weeks prior to departure. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens. Your invoice will be for the balance of your holiday cost less the discount and less the deposit paid. If you wish to pay by credit card a surcharge of 1.5 per cent will be levied.

Q: Is it possible to book my holiday(s) before I collect all ten tokens?
A: You must collect all ten tokens and fill in the relevant operator's booking form with the deposit. Only then will your holiday(s) be confirmed.

Q: What happens if the holiday(s) of my choice is sold out?
A: Cox & Kings will inform you as soon as this happens and you may select an alternative date or destination or your deposit will be returned.

Q: When can I book the holiday(s)?
A: Bookings can be made when you have your ten tokens and relevant booking form. You must book your holiday(s) by February 20, 1994.

Q: To what does the discount apply?
A: It applies to the specific departure date and tour offered by the operator. Any number of people booking together on one booking form, together with ten tokens attached, can take part in the offer. It excludes any other supplements, including single room supplements, any other holiday, insurance, car hire (except where car hire is part of the specific tour offered by the operator), special excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.

Q: What happens if I miss or lose a token?
A: We will be publishing a total of 21 tokens and backdated copies will be accepted (though photocopies will not be accepted). So you should be able to catch up.

Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?
A: No, you may arrange your own insurance, but you must ensure that you are fully covered for the holiday booked and forward details of the policy arranged when mailing your booking form.

Q: Are the operators bonded?
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators insolvency.

Saturday portrait: Boris Becker by Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent

Fallen ace's quest to champion material world costs him dear

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



Unobserved, Gunther Bosch watched the tennis courts from behind the curtains. He wanted to see how his four protégés behaved when he left them to their own devices. Three of the 14-year-olds, predictably, stopped practising and started clowning. The reaction of the other puzzled him.

Bosch had been the German national coach until the defeat by Czechoslovakia in the 1980 Davis Cup. Dismissed from the post, he began his own search for talent and two of the youths he found were Patrick Kuhnen and Carl-Uwe Steeb. Poignantly, they were members of the team that regained the cup a week ago.

More than a decade ago, they, plus Udo Riglewski, acted like typical adolescents when their teacher was out of sight. The exception was potentially the best of them all but Bosch had been warned by a district coach that the precocious talent was also a troublesome, obstinate and temperamental hothead.

His name was Boris Becker. While the other youngsters played the fool, however, Bosch noted from his distant vantage point that the supposedly wild and ill-disciplined character conscientiously chose to carry on practising the drills as instructed. Even as a boy, evidently, he was his own man.

Bosch became Becker's personal coach and was fascinated by his response to the outcome of a match. Whenever he was beaten, he would weep, rant, tear his shirt and hurl his equipment around the locker-room. At that stage of his development, his hatred of defeat was greater than his love of victory.

After one loss in the Orange Bowl, the world junior championship staged in Miami, Bosch recalled that his pupil "not only pounded his racket on the court but also hit himself. It was horrible". Becker was still being driven by the same dread when, at the age of 18, he retained the Wimbledon title.

With his Titian hair still matted with perspiration after beating Ivan Lendl in the 1986 final, he told Bosch the feeling of defeat was greater than the elation "of the biggest victory". Restricting himself principally to preparing for grand slam events, he was not often tormented by the experience he found so painful.

He enjoyed six golden years, collecting the US and Australian Open titles as well as three at Wimbledon, and led Germany to two Davis Cups. Established as the best player in the world, he promoted such an explosion of interest in his homeland that no other European nation now has greater strength in depth.

But Becker, now 26, began to lose his own way in his professional career and strike out in a different direction in his personal life. With Karen Schultz, his former girlfriend, who was a progressive thinker, he had declared his solidarity with the squatters in Hamburg and worn the Greenpeace symbol on his court attire.

> 'Becker has fallen far below the standards he set. Critically, he has lost his focus'

With Barbara Feltus, his pregnant fiancée, he has veered towards materialism. Earlier this year he bought a Mercedes franchise in eastern Germany, signed multi-million pound deals with a company that promotes a lottery system and invited a wealthy entrepreneur, Axel Meyer-Wolden, to be his new business manager.

Bosch's place has been filled by five coaches in the past two years. The fourth, Eric Jelen, a friend and once a fellow member of the Davis Cup team, was discarded without notice on Tuesday, on the eve of Becker's first appearance in the Grand Slam Cup. The tournament is promoted by Meyer-Waldon.

Becker announced yesterday that his new coach would be Nick Bollettieri, renowned more for the favourable environment he has created at his training camp in Florida than for his expertise. Theirs is an improbable relationship but another indication that the increasingly independent German seeks infrequent motivation and financial advice rather than a regular partner.

Becker has fallen far below the standards he set and speculation is mounting that he will never be able to reach them again. Critically, he has lost his focus, once as acute as anybody's in the game.

The bulbous blue eyes no longer stare with fierce intensity, the self-torture is a memory from the past and even elimination from the Grand Slam Cup, ignominiously in straight sets in the first round, is apparently of little import. A few hours later he was in Schumann's, a fashionable American bar in the centre of Munich.

His year had been ended by Wayne Ferreira, who had never beaten him before, but Becker merely expressed relief. Asked whether he would prefer to forget 1993, during which he won a couple of comparitively trivial events in Qatar and Milan, he responded with a quip which might be regarded as uncouth and tasteless but it was revealing.

"Not at all," he said. "I made the best shot of my career and it [his first-born] will come out in about five weeks." For some months, the prospect of impending fatherhood has been a consuming distraction. It has not been the only one.

He severed his links in the summer with his long-time mentor, Ion Tiriac, a decision that still bewilders the affable Romanian, and is considering where to base his family once he has married. As Feltus is black, he declares that he will not be able to live in Germany "until I'm 60, which is very sad".

He has also reflected wistfully on a career that has filled 11 months a year for almost a decade, of "spending June in my home, to see spring in my garden and not from a tennis court". He could do so in London but not yet, he insists.

Though of no huge intellect, he can deliver an appealing turn of phrase even in a foreign language. He was surprisingly knocked out of Wimbledon in 1987 by Peter Doohan, the Australian. "Nobody died out there," the former champion said. "It wasn't a war." He was 19 at the time.

He believes he has time enough to accumulate another grand slam title or two, although he accepts that he is perhaps three quarters of the way to retirement. As Jelen and Tiriac, among others, will confirm, he has been known to make unexpected decisions and alter course with little or no warning.

During an interview in *The Times* in May, Becker offered a significant pronouncement. "If, say, I am No 15 or 20 in the world, winning just one tournament a year and not beating the best, then I would consider going away. I just couldn't cope with losing all the time."

Seven months later he is No 13 in the world and has won only those two tournaments. He did not qualify for the ATP world championship, a competition featuring the best eight players which he has won twice and been runner-up three times.

Will Becker, so palpably out of form during his fiancée's pregnancy, recover his passion for the game once their child is born? As he pointed out, the likes of Lendl, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg exhibited some of their best tennis after becoming fathers.

Becker is known to be obsessed with the idea of becoming famed for more than his deeds on court. It may well be that his secondary career, perhaps as an entrepreneur in the mould of Tiriac and Meyer-Wolden, will begin to take shape sooner than he would care to predict.

Selectors have eye for Main chance

By John Hennessy

THE British figure-skating selection committee produced a confused package yesterday in the wake of the national championships at Basingstoke, notably in the choice of Stephanie Main, a 17-year-old Scot based in Sunderland, for the European championships in Copenhagen next month.

Main won the British title on Thursday night, but only by default. Charlene von Saher, immeasurably the best skater in the technical programme on Wednesday, was taken ill on Thursday afternoon and was unable to defend the title she won last year. Von Saher has, however, been given the one place open to Britain for the Winter Olympics in Norway in February.

The selectors said that Main deserved some reward beyond the title itself and that it would have been presumptuous to say that Von Saher would have won had she been fit.

Vanessa Riley, the chairman of the selectors, readily admits it is a compromise and was unmoved by the poor record of Main in the world junior championships in Colorado Springs last week, when she was last of the 24 competitors. "The world junior championships," she argued, "is of a higher standard than the European seniors." The choice of pair also causes consternation. It was foreseeable that the new champions, Dana Mednick and Jason Briggs, would be chosen for the European championships, but they are ineligible for the Olympics because of Mednick's American nationality.

Britain does not yet have a place in the Olympics, but a reserve spot is likely be offered, in which case the selectors would have to decide whether to take it up with another pair.

At least the men's team presents no problem. The two places available in Copenhagen go to Steven Cousins and John Martin, first and second respectively at Basingstoke on Thursday. Cousins, as national champion, will be the one representative in Norway.

Sampras accounts for Chang

From Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent, in Munich

PETE Sampras, who collected a bonus of $500,000 (about £335,000) before hitting a ball here, has assured himself of at least another $431,250. In beating Michael Chang in straight sets yesterday, he reached the semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup, where he will play either Sergi Bruguera or Petr Korda today.

Sampras has already dismantled the record of prize-money earned in a year and he could yet pick up almost $6 million by the time he has finished. The elegant way in which he plays, making the game appear to be no hardship, it seems like money for old rope.

But no match against Chang can be effortless. Sampras won only 14 easy points, the aces he served to lift his total during the year to 1,035. Nobody else combines such accuracy and power. Goran Ivanisevic, himself renowned for clean hitting, is second on the list with 801.

Sampras was otherwise pressed, hurried, and forced into the odd error by an opponent who refuses to concede a point until it has officially been awarded against him. At one stage, early in a tight opening set, Chang was reluctant to give up even then.

Attempting to return a smash, he succeeded only in ballooning the ball up towards the domed roof. Undeterred, he scurried after it and volleyed it back over the net before it could bounce on the carpet. He is irrepressible, not merely to the end, but beyond that.

Sampras, almost statuesque by comparison, was not averse to allowing winners to go by without chasing them. He was aware that he might benefit from preserving his energy for the semi-final, assuming he could subdue a fellow American who has in the past beaten him more often than not.

The record is deceptive.



Sampras: cashing in

Chang, six months the younger, built up his advantage at the beginning of their careers. He still leads 6-4, but, significantly, the gap is rapidly closing. Sampras, always the winner whenever they have played indoors, has lost only one of the last five meetings.

He took the first set on a tie-break, 9-7, with his seventh ace, and, once he had responded immediately to being broken at the opening of the second set, remained in control. To complete a neat geometric pattern, he finished the match as he had started it — with an unreturnable serve.

He agreed that the spectacle had not been compelling. "I didn't hit the ball that well," he said. "Maybe playing Michael for so many years has something to do with that. I don't think any of us feel that great, because the court is so quick. It is tough to get a good rhythm out there.

"You have to give him credit. He is still a counter-puncher, but he is coming in more and mixing it up. He realised in order to stay somewhere in the top ten, you have to be more aggressive and he has done that with the help his brother, Carl."

He described the financial rewards as "a little extra Christmas money", although his vision of a gift might be considered more generous than most. Among the presents he is thinking of acquiring are a couple of jet-skis.

His productive victory was witnessed by Boris Becker, who was eliminated in the first round. Yesterday, he ended speculation by confirming that he is to be coached by Nick Bollettieri, whose charges have included Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, and Monica Seles.

"He is one of the most experienced experts in tennis with major merits," Becker said of his new coach. "I am convinced that he will be instrumental in achieving the goals I have set for my tennis in 1994." Bollettieri commented: "It is a real honour to be able to team up with one of the very greatest in tennis." They sounded like a mutual admiration society.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: Thursday: S Edberg (Swe) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-7, 6-1, 6-0. Yesterday: P Sampras (US) bt M Chang (US) 7-6, 6-3.

☐ Monica Seles, who has not played since being stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg last April, has hinted strongly that she will defend her women's singles title at the Australian Open next month.

Davies proving bargain buy for Warrington

By Christopher Irvine

FEW realise it, but Jonathan Davies has played rugby league longer than he did rugby union at first-class level. But although nearly five years have passed since his farewell to Wales, only now is there a genuine feeling that the son of Trimsaran has truly arrived.

Suspicions about him were yet another indictment of the parochialism and lingering resentment of rugby union that does the professional code no favours. But at Warrington, where Davies moved in the summer, he was welcomed not for novelty value but as someone of proven ability.

In contrast to his arrival at Widnes in January 1989 — "I'd never known ballyhoo and headlines like it" — Davies, 31, slipped almost unnoticed into Wilderspool, where attendances have risen by a quarter this season, in response to the little man's exploits.

At Widnes, no matter what he did, the label of former Wales stand-off half remained firmly attached. At Warrington, Davies has been relaxed and confident. In addition to his 69 goals and 12 tries, which took him to a career century, he has re-emerged as an important member of the Great Britain side.

Workmanlike was the most favourable pre-season description that could be applied to Warrington, as odds of 50-1 for the Stones Bitter championship reflected. The arrival of Davies has brought about a transformation. His vision and control at centre have sparked some latent talents.

Alongside him, Allan Bateman, a fellow Welshman, has rarely looked as good. In midfield, Greg Mackey, Kevin Ellis and Kelly Shelford are playing havoc with defences. While the forwards have not been quite as commanding, Gary Chambers, Craig Teitzel and Paul Cullen have all performed impressively in a run of eight wins.

With a two-point advantage at the top of the first division, Warrington have taken over from St Helens as the main challengers this season to Wigan, west of the Pennines anyway.

The two teams meet in today's televised third-round Regal Trophy tie, and although they have lost to their rivals on four previous occasions in the competiton, home advantage should improve St Helens' chances.

After their dispiriting defeat last week at Hull, St Helens are glad to welcome back Tea Ropati to their back diviskon after an absence of six weeks. The Warrington hooker, John Thursfield, has a sprained



Ellis: creative

ankle and the teenager, Colin Hodkinson, is on stand-by for his debut.

It is six years since Wigan last lost in the Challenge Cup. Oldham, who were the team responsible, should pose less of a threat tomorrow to the progress of the Trophy holders. Martin Offiah is doubtful for Wigan but the return of a fully fit Jason Robinson on the wing provides ample compensation. Nigel Heslop, the former England rugby union winger, is retained in the full back position by Oldham.

The pick of the other matches is that between third-placed Bradford Northern, unbeaten at home, and Halifax, who are fourth. Hull are on a roll and could well account for Widnes, while Castleford should enjoy a straightforward passage against Leigh. The second division is guaranteed at least two quarter-final representatives, with Carlisle meeting Bramley and Ryedale-York entertaining London Crusaders.

Hardcastle knocks second off record

By Craig Lord

SARAH Hardcastle broke the longest surviving British short-course swimming record at Gloucester last night, winning the 800 metres freestyle in 8min 23.96sec. The time would have won her the silver medal at the world short-course championships at Palma last week.

That event was not part of Hardcastle's long-term planning. Last night's record was merely a short-term bonus on the way to the Commonwealth Games and world long-course championships next summer.

Hardcastle, 24, swam each 100 metres of the 32-length race in about 1min 03sec, her pace metronomic and her style never faltering.

The result — in the race for which Hardcastle won the bronze medal at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 — was a second faster than the record her former Southend team-mate, Jackie Wilmott, had set 11 years ago and just over a second slower than the time in which Janet Evans, the OLympic champion, had won the world title last week.

Illness was threatening to turn the tide of Karen Pickering's good fortunes. While retaining her 100 metres freestyle title last night, her 56.06sec time — just ahead of a much-improved Alex Bennett, of Nova Centurion — was almost two seconds slower than the time that won her the bronze medal at the world short-course championships at Palma, Majorca, a week ago and set her up to become Britain's first woman world champion, at 200 metres.

Pickering, 22 a week tomorrow, has been ordered to pull out of the championships by her doctors, who are concerned that she is contracting influenza. She looked drawn last night and confessed to feeling "shattered".

After talking to Dave Champion, her coach at Ipswich, however, she will not decide whether she attempts the 200 metres world record today until she has swum the morning heats. On her form of last night, chances of success would appear remote.

Mansell takes prominence in print

NIGEL Mansell is fast becoming a one-man industry, scooping up records and awards wherever he goes, and winning new sponsors and promotional contracts at the same rate. There are Mansell videos, Mansell advertisements, Mansell television shows and, of course, Mansell books.

The 1992 Formula One world champion's victory in the IndyCar series this year in the United States predictably provided a catalyst for the rash of slick, hastily produced and exhaustive records of his triumph which seem to be dominating the market.

He chose an American journalist, Jeremy Shaw, to write the official version, *Nigel Mansell's IndyCar Racing* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £19.99), and his trusted photographer, John Townsend, to take the pictures which instil the book with much of its appeal. Kris Perkins, in *IndyCar* (Osprey Automotive, £9.99), gives a less partisan and more informative look at the code, but it lacks the drama and the cachet of the inside track inherent in Shaw's glossier version.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Derick Allsop played his part in the creation of Mansell-mania with his book, *Mansell and Williams*, which appeared at the end of 1992. This year, he turned his attention to Benetton to produce a well-researched and revealing look at the team that has emerged as one of the leading fights in the sport. *Designs on Victory* (Stanley Paul, £16.99) dissects the year which peaked with Michael Schumacher's victory in Portugal in September.

Mansell even appears on the cover of what is arguably the most comprehensive and entertaining motor racing book of the year, Ivan Rendall's *The Chequered Flag — 100 Years of Motor Racing* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25). Mansell provided a suitably humble foreword to the book which is bursting with pictures of the pioneers of the sport in action and progresses to a study of the parallel development of Formula One and IndyCar.

Much of the fascination of the 400-page tome lies in the images and accounts of motor racing at the turn of the century when teams, world championships and computer-driven cars were generations away but the names that dominate the sport today were already prominent.

There is a grainy photograph of the aftermath of motor racing's first fatal accident, at Périgueux in France, in 1898, and a fearsome narration of the Paris-Madrid race five years later. It started with 275 entries and was watched by more than three million spectators. Racing at speeds of more than 80mph, the drivers were expected to perch on a plank for hundreds of miles without the protection of any form of cockpit or seatbelt. The race claimed seven lives, among them that of Marcel Renault, and provoked the first of a series of arguments that still rage today over safety.

Oliver Holt

هكذا من الأصل

Blanchflower's truths need restating

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

PERHAPS it is symbolic that as the light that was Danny Blanchflower, a true football romantic, is extinguished, another is to be switched on at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, where the World Cup draw will take place a week tomorrow. Blanchflower would have detested the glitz, the pretence, the need to take an authentic game into the gamblers' den.

Yet there are genuine links between Blanchflower and the attempts to make the United States one of the family of footballing nations, for he tried, and tasted a rare failure, to help launch the ill-fated North American Soccer League (NASL) a quarter of a century ago. Blanchflower's failure came down to a single word: truth.

He, commentating for television, told it as it was. This meant sometimes criticising the fallibilities of players. The producers could not take it. They argued that he should gloss over the errors, and when he responded that he was there as an instrument of truth, their reasoning was that "there is a positive truth, a negative truth, and in television we deal only in the positives".

Blanchflower left the show after a single season. NASL, almost inevitably, died, a sport never allowed to take root, partly because of television's failure to treat it on merit.

And now the draw hits America as a pre-tournament taster, an affair hyped up with show business and speculation. Yesterday came an initial suggestion from Fifa that mathematics would be the guideline for seeding the 24 teams. With the exception of the US, as hosts, and Germany, as champions, the rest of the teams would be placed into four groups of seedings based purely on a mathematical factor related to their achievements, or otherwise, at the preceding three World Cups.

But later in the day, Fifa said that only the top six seeds were decided, that the formula for the remaining 18 teams would in fact not be made known until next Thursday.

What a relief. For in the mathematics, anomalies abound. For example, Cameroon are placed, along with Ireland, in the second band of seedings, while Nigeria are in the last band. Most African followers will tell you that Nigeria is the coming African power, Cameroon the ageing one.

And while Holland have bitterly contested their placing in only the third group, the nonsense of Columbia being similarly low graded is compounded by the fact that they thrashed Argentina 5-0 in qualifying in Buenos Aires.

What this tells us is that mathematical formulae and historical factors are ridiculed by current form, expectation and human ability. Once again, Danny Blanchflower could have forewarned them. We are back to his truth, to the belief that football is a game of improvisation and skill, and that you follow those attributes rather, like the infant Blanchflower pursued marching bands and wandering street musicians whenever he had the opportunity.

There is a serious point here. Blanchflower, at accountancy school and in the RAF, studied kinematics — the science of moving bodies over spheres — and navigation. Ironically the dreaded high-ball game, or the direct style of football, came from Wing Commander Reep, another RAF statistician.

But to Blanchflower, to many others of us who admit to romance before mathematics in the game, there is a higher thing to cherish in football. Blanchflower would have hoped that the 1994 World Cup would bring the game back from the mundane efforts of Italia 90, where a draw and extra-time penalties were often played for and sometimes proved decisive. "Skill," he would enthuse, "is a rare blossom. You have to encourage it, wait for it."

Blanchflower knew that the equation in British football that most legislated against skill was fear. He had one late, abortive attempt at club management, with Chelsea. It began, almost to this day, 15 years ago. Blanchflower, then, was attempting what Glenn Hoddle is now, to broaden the scope of an English club side, to embrace the beauty and the wit of the game. And when, just nine months later, relegation obliged him to resign, he confided: "My methods take four to five years to develop. Who, in our football, dares to allow that?"

When I travel to Las Vegas next week, I shall miss Blanchflower dearly. Ultimately, like him, one is either a romantic, or like so many others a pragmatist. And the romance in Blanchflower perhaps formatively came from the fact that he learned his sport from a woman. He was taught, as were his two brothers, by their mother, Selina, who during the 1920s played for a women's team in Northern Ireland. She, rather than their father, a shipyard worker, instilled in the Blanchflower brothers the notion that chasing a round ball could be a fulfilling life pursuit.

It is, from Africa to Asia to Europe to Latin America ... and maybe, after next summer, even in North America.

FIFA, the world governing body of football, last night went into direct competition with Uefa, the European body, by announcing that it is to stage a World Club Cup every two years, featuring 16 teams, from 1995 (Rob Hughes writes). A week ago Uefa outlined its extended Champions League and yesterday Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, described that as "undemocratic". Fifa intends to select eight European clubs and two from each of the four other confederations for the World Club Cup.

Johnson turns to football in search of magic touch



Simon Barnes
On Saturday

And now this column is privileged to bring you the story that the world has been waiting for with mingled dread and delight: Ben Johnson is making a comeback. Again. Yes, sport's greatest victim and villain is coming among us again. The Johnson story so far: fastest man in history, done for drugs at the Olympic Games in 1988, rehabilitated, started running again, found he was doing it rather slowly, went back to drugs, got caught again, got banned again. That brings us up to last year. Now read on.

He is planning to become a football star. That's soccer, not the American game with the pointy ball. He has played for a Toronto team, one possibly not altogether francophile in nature, but let that pass, called Agincourt Magic. The Canadian *Athletics* magazine reported: "His performance during the game simply showed that he could run very well."

For all that, Foggia, in Italy, have expressed an interest but are worried that the game's governing body, Fifa, might not allow him to play because of his ban from track and field. However, Toronto Argonauts — they do play with a pointy ball — are also, according to local rumours, considering taking him on. Johnson is also thinking about opening a nightclub. You can't keep a good man down.

Gifted ideas

Here are some jolly Christmas present ideas. They come from a new magazine titled *F.C.* which is distributed to the Football Association's 43,000-odd clubs. Among the footballing gifts available across the country are rolls of Hartlepool United wallpaper, a Cambridge United moose hand puppet (£3), a life-size cardboard cut-out of Stuart Pearce (takes penalties and gives back-passes as good as the original, £12.50); and a complete team of hand-painted footballing gnomes in your club colours (£50).

In the pink

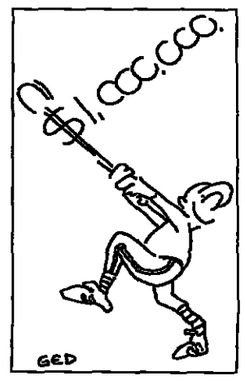
News reaches me of the Eighth annual Boston women's rugby sevens tournament. One team, called The Pink Dresses, played in, well, pink dresses. The competition was won by a team called the Marys, all of whom were named, well, Mary. The top player was their goalkicker, the not inaptly named Mary Indelicato.

Untamed Philly

A bottle of ambrosial Calem Colheita 1962 tawny port goes to Mike Ross, who elects Mitch "Wild Thing" Williams to the Wayward Genius Club. Williams was the brilliant closer for the Philadelphia Phillies, a man whose job is to come in when the starting pitcher tires, pick up the demoralised opposition and pound them into fragments. Such was Williams's forte; his genius over the crucial last couple of innings took the Phillies to the World Series. But then the Wild Thing went altogether amok. He came to the mound twice with the game in a sure-fire winning situation — and lost them both. "We won four games but we didn't close four games," a team-mate said. Ross writes: "The cricketing equivalent of his *faux pas* would be something like, with one ball remaining in the final over, and his team ahead by seven runs, Williams would have bowled two wides and then been hit for six." Fans from the City of Brotherly Love demanded his removal; he has just been traded to the Houston Astros. He is clearly a worthy fellow-member, alongside Gazza, Gower and Co. More port for other suggestions for membership of this, the ace of clubs.

Base business

Sad business about those baseball players. The average Major League salary has gone up only 4.6 per cent this year — the second smallest rise since records began in 1967. That compares with a rise of 20.8 per cent last year, 42.5 per cent the previous year and 20.2 per cent the year before that. The average salary is now a mere $1,076,890 (about £720,000). The best answer to such poverty is to play for the Toronto Blue Jays. They won the World Series and their average salary is $1,765,000. Your average non-international footballer in the FA Carling Premiership gets about £80,000: capped cricketers make between £20,000 and £25,000.



No Bowl

Great news: Garth Brooks, a "country" singer, has become the latest superstar to turn down an invitation to perform at the Super Bowl, which takes place next month in Atlanta. "The Super Bowl deserves a big half-time show," Brooks said. "Unfortunately, with the time available, we couldn't offer them something of that calibre." Brooks goes onto the role of honour of Super Bowl refuseniks, alongside Billy Joel and Elton John. Perhaps they are worried about what happened to the bloke who did it last time, an odd little chap who used to sing with the Jackson Five.

FA enquiry to decide if Fashanu will be charged

By Keith Pike

THE Football Association is to hold a commission of enquiry before deciding whether to charge John Fashanu, the Wimbledon striker, over the incident that left Gary Mabbutt with severe facial injuries.

The commission will meet in the next fortnight and review film of the challenge during a Premiership match at White Hart Lane on November 24 in which Fashanu's elbow appeared to cause the Tottenham Hotspur captain's injuries as they challenged for a header.

An FA spokesman said yesterday that the interim hearing would be held because video evidence "is not clear-cut". Both players will be invited to attend, along with representatives of their clubs and Keith Hackett, the match referee. If Fashanu is eventually charged, the hearing is unlikely to be held before the New Year.

Fashanu said yesterday that he had nothing to fear from the commission. "I am more than happy to go along," he said. "As I've said throughout, it was an accident. I will be telling the commission exactly that."

His club, though, believes the hearing is unnecessary. "We wish that the FA had just seen the video and said that the whole controversy was a load of rubbish," Terry Burton, the Wimbledon assistant manager, said. "There is not much we can do about it now, but the sooner it is all over and done with the better it will be for John, who can then get on with his football."

Mabbutt, 32, spent a week in hospital after the collision, which left him with three fractures of the right eye socket and four fractures of the cheekbone. Dr David James, the surgeon who operated on Mabbutt, told him later that he had been fortunate not to lose the sight in his right eye.

Hackett did not penalise Fashanu and decided not to report the incident after watching a video of it, and Mabbutt initially said he wanted no further action to be taken. By last Friday, though, Mabbutt had changed his mind. Tottenham sent a video of the incident and a letter of complaint to the FA, which in turn gave Fashanu seven days in which to reply. In a letter to the FA, Fashanu said: "It was a complete and genuine accident. There was no intent on my part to cause him any injury."

The FA spokesman said that if Fashanu is subsequently charged it would most probably be under Rule 26 (a) (x), which covers insulting or improper behaviour and conduct "considered to be ungentlemanly or likely to bring the game into disrepute".

Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, said he was happy with the FA's course of action.

Fashanu, who missed Wimbledon's home defeat by West Ham United last Saturday, is likely to return to the attack against Aston Villa at Villa Park today, but the weekend programme is again dominated by the match involving the runaway Premiership leaders, Manchester United.

They are away to Newcastle United, who can count on more than just the backing of their own fanatical supporters at St James' Park. "I think the whole country wants us to win because nobody likes to see any team running away with the title," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said.

Manchester United are 12 points clear, but on August 21 Newcastle became one of only four teams to prevent them winning this season, Andy Cole's late equaliser securing a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

It was the first of his 22 goals this season after he had failed to score in Newcastle's opening two matches on their return to the top division. Since joining Newcastle he has yet to go three league matches without a goal, hitting 34 in 31 matches in all, and having failed to find the target against Arsenal and Tottenham in the last two weekends Cole is due one today.

Touch of class at Tannadice

Kevin McCarra meets Ivan Golac, the Dundee United manager, who is happy to challenge British ideas on defence



Hot stuff: daredevil defender Gordan Petric, who is as much firebug as firefighter

Even if the Rangers attack is afflicted by bashfulness this afternoon, uproar in the visitors' penalty area is still guaranteed. Dundee United take to Ibrox a sweeper who supplies his own thrills and spills. Gordan Petric is a daredevil defender.

The Serbian can certainly extinguish danger in the goalmouth, but he is as much firebug as firefighter. There are moments when you think he might send his own team's hopes up in smoke.

Who else would have decided, as he did against Celtic two weeks ago, that dribbling the ball across the six-yard box was the best way of protecting a 1-0 lead?

The 24-year-old is a threat not only to his team-mates' blood pressure, but also to British preconceptions about the role of the defender. Most coaches in this country would leap from the bench to barrack Petric, but if Ivan Golac, the Dundee United manager, gets to his feet, it will only be to deliver a standing ovation.

While in charge of Partizan Belgrade, Golac signed Petric, then only 16, from another of the city's teams, FK. The defender has been designed to Golac's specifications. "I worked with Gordan morning and afternoon," he said. "I wanted him to relax and have the confidence to try things.

Golac cannot accept that defenders should be forced to pare away the element of risk. When the sense of adventure goes, so, too, does the talent. "Look around the premier division," Golac says. "How many defenders are there who can take the ball from the keeper and carry it forward?"

The manager insists that the sweeper role must be more than just a failsafe system. "He is the only player who does not get marked so he can be the most dangerous man on the pitch. It is an absolute waste to sit at the back. I expect Gordan to make himself available in midfield."

Golac said the player he signed for £600,000 last month "is worth two Tony Adamses, at least." Petric certainly has a more cultivated pedigree than Arsenal's England defender. In 1987, he was a member of the Yugoslavia team which won the world youth championship in Chile. The line-up included Zvonomir Boban and Robert Prosinecki, now of AC Milan and Real Madrid respectively, but there were occasions when they deferred to Petric. He was the free-kick specialist.

The sweeper went on to make his full international debut at Wembley in 1989. In the circumstances, the move to the West seems curiously delayed. The market in defenders is always sluggish, though, and the current UN sanctions added a layer of complexity. United could not pay Partizan and the fee currently lies in a suspense account in a London bank.

Petric did have the chance to join other clubs in Germany and Spain, but preferred to re-establish the working relationship with Golac.

That decison has greatly enhanced the manager's standing. Those perturbed by Golac's offbeat cheerfulness were heartened by the sheer substance of Petric's skill.

He recently popped into the office to ask how his performances had been. "Absolute rubbish," replied Golac immediately.

The affection in that exchange is obvious. There is a paternal tone whenever the manager discusses the player.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: Limoges (Fr) 87 Treviso (It) 89; Olympiakos (Gr) 71 Mechelen (Bel) 63. Group B: Pau-Orthez (Fr) 82 Joventut Badalona (Sp) 92; Virtus Bologna (It) 85 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 65.

LEAGUE TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Manchester 86, Leicester 74.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 105 San Antonio 95; Charlotte 95 Cleveland 93; Indiana 111 Orlando 105; Seattle 125 Dallas 93; Houston 115 Miami 109 (OT); Phoenix 114 Washington 95; New York 95 Golden State 81.

BOXING

BANGKOK: IBF mini-flyweight championship: Rattanapol Sor Vorapin (Thai, holder) bt Felix Naranjo (Col), rsc 2nd rnd.

EQUESTRIANISM

GENEVA: Volvo World Cup: Show-jumping: Class one: 1, Miss San Patrignano (M Robert, Fr) 45.32sec; 2, Bachus (B Kristoffersen, Den) 46.45, 3, San Patrignol La Toya de L'Ari (H Bourdy, Fr) 46.82. Class two: 1, San Patrignano Nonix (M Robert, Fr); 2, Magnum 5 (H Simon, Austria); 3, Tambour IV (B Mandl, Switz). Parcours de chasse: 1, Almox Kendalien (M Beerbaum, Ger) 81 39sec; 2, Almox Ita Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 81 89, 3, Pienette AC Folen (T Fuchs, Switz) 83 35. Major class: 1, Nimmerdor (D Colsaingco, Phil); 2, Almox Relax (L Beerbaum, Ger); 3, San Patrignano Joli Coeur (F Stockhaik, Ger).

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Pietermaritzburg: Western Province 225-6 (C Best 63, E Simons 52 not out, A Dawson 56) v Natal. Bloemfontein: Orange Free State 292-8 (R Steyn 90, L Wilkinson 72) v Boland.

FOOTBALL

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Final, second leg: Zamalek (Egypt) 0, Asante Kotoko (Ghana) 0 (agg: 0-0; Zamalek win 7-6 on penalties).

Late results on Thursday

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Wednesday 1 Newcastle 1; Sunderland 1 Liverpool 0.

FA VASE: Second round, third replay: Newport IoW 1 Banstead 6.

GOLF

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Open: Second round: 137: R Green (Aus) 67, 70; S Ginn (Aus) 68, 69; G Ware (NZ) 68, 69; B Faxon (US) 65, 72; P Fowler (Aus) 69, 69; E Ogloff (US) 69, 68. 138: J Woodland (Aus) 67, 71. 139: P Davenport (NZ) 73, 66; N Smith (Aus) 71, 68; N Kerry (Aus) 71, 68. D McKenzie (Aus) 72, 67, G Serhen (Aus) 70, 69; M Campbell (NZ) 68, 71; T Maloney (Aus) 70, 69; C Gray (Aus) 69, 70.

DURBAN: South African Open: Second round (S Africa unless stated): 133: T Johnstone (Zim) 64, 69. 135: C Davison 66, 69. 136: J Bland 62, 74; M McNulty (Zim) 67, 69; E Els 66, 70. 137: M Gallant 67, 70. 138: B Fourie 69, 69; R Kaplan 68, 70; B Lincoln 70, 68; R Muntz (Holl) 68, 70. 139: I Hutchings 66, 73; H Buhrmann 67, 72. 140: I Leggatt (Can) 67, 73; R Goosen 70, 70.

GOLD COAST, Australia: Australian women's masters: First round: 67: M Spencer-Devlin (US). 68: L Davies (Eng) 69: A Sorenstam (Swe), Li Wan-lin (Taiwan). 70: J Crafter (Aus), S Daniels (Aus). 71: C Figg-Currier (US), E Orley (Switz), J Higgins (NZ), K Webb (Aus). 72: C Dibnah (Aus), L Mills (US), L Neumann (Swe), K Espinasse (Fr), M Scerri (Aus), S Gautrey (Aus). Other British scores: 73: J Hill, 74: D Reid, J Soulsby, S Nicklin. 77: D Barnard.

OKINAWA, Japan: Daikyo Open (Japan unless stated): 132: N Sarbzewa 65, 67. 134: Y Hagawa 70, 64; S Fujiki 67, 67. 135: T Sudo 69, 66; F Inno 73, 63; T Maruyama 69, 67; T Shiraishi 68, 68. Foreign scores: 138: B Franklin (Can) 67, 71. 139: M Ferguson (Aus) 70, 69; Hsieh Min-nan (Taiwan) 68, 71. 140: D Ishii (US) 72, 68; P Senior (Aus) 70, 70. 142: R Gibson (Can) 71, 71; Chan Tze-chung (Taiwan) 70, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Vancouver 3 Boston 2 (OT); Detroit 3 St Louis 2; Quebec 3 New Jersey 2; Washington 4 Philadelphia 2; Dallas 6 Ottawa 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: United States 8 Russia 5 (in Orlando, Florida).

ICE SKATING

BASINGSTOKE: British championships: Women: Free programme: 1, S Main (Murrayfield and Sunderland) 1.0pts; 2, N Gorbenko-Risk (Alexandra Palace) 2.0; 3, E Warmington (Sunderland) 3.0. Overall: 1, Main 2.5; 2, Gorbenko-Risk 3.0; 3, Warmington 5.0. Men: Free programme: 1, S Cousins (Deeside), 1.0pt; 2, J Martin (Kyle and East Kilbride) 2.0; 3, D Ings (Swindon) 3.0. Overall: 1, Cousins 1.5; 2, Martin 3.0; 3, Ings 4.5. Pairs: Free programme: 1, D Mednick and J Briggs (Ashfield), 1.0pt; 2, J Soames and J Jenkins (Alexandra Palace) 2.0; 3, L Rogers and M Aldred (Solihull) 3.0.Overall: 1, Mednick and Briggs 2.0; 2, Soames and Jenkins 2.5; 3 Rogers and Aldred 4.5.

TOKYO: NHK Cup: Pairs (technical programme): 1, I Brasseur and L Eisler (Can) 0.5; 2, R Kovarikova and R Novotny (Cz) 1.0, 3, Y Kawasaki (Japan) and A Tikhonov (Russ) 1.5. Men (technical): 1, A Urmanov (Russ) 0.5; 2, V Zagorodniuk (Ukr) 1.0; 3, P Candeloro (Fr) 1.5. Women (technical): 1, Y Sato (Japan) 0.5; 2, L Ivanova (Ukr) 1.0, 3, S Bonaly (Fr) 1.5. Ice dance: 1, O Gritschuk and E Platov (Russ) 1.0, 2, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (Uzb) 2.0; 3, A Stergiadu and J Rasguliaev (Uzb) 3.4.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Postponed: Dewsbury v Doncaster (waterlogged pitch).

SKIING

TIGNES, France: Freestyle World Cup: Aerials: Men: 1, T Worthington (US) 233.50; 2, S Schonbachler (Switz) 216.91; 3, C Rijavec (Austria) 216.41; 4, P Laroche (Can) 210.28; 5, N Fontaine (Can) 206.25. British placing: 11, R Cobbing. Women: 1, L Cheryazova (Uzb) 158.18; 2, S Reichart (Ger) 153.11; 3, C Olivier (Can) 149.95; 4, I Palenko (Ukr) 149.06; 5, C Brand (Switz) 148.76. British placing: 9, J Curry, 143.58.

BIATHLON

SPORTGASTEIN, Austria: World Cup: Women's 15km: 1, N Santer (It) 55min 59.7sec (1 shot missed); 2, N Bjelova (Ukr) at 2:06.1 (1); 3, S Greiner-Petter-Memm (Ger) 2:15.5 (2).

SWIMMING

GLOUCESTER: National winter championship finals: Men: 200m backstroke: 1, A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham) 1:57.22; 2, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 2:01.51, 3, J Hunter (Warrender) 2:02.08 (heat 2:01.32, Scottish record). 50m breaststroke: 1, A Clapper (City of Coventry) 29.52; 2, P McGinley (Beckenham) 29.65; 3, P Methuen (City of Cardiff) 29.70. 100m butterfly: 1, Hickman 55.55; 2, D Warren (City of Leeds) 56.05; 3, N Gillingham (City of Birmingham) 56.09. 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, City of Leeds 7.27.46; 2, Portsmouth Southsea 7:36.75, 3, Loughborough Students 7:42.85.

Women: 50m freestyle: 1, K Pickering (Ipswich) 26.98; 2, M Lock (City of Cardiff) 26.79; 3, A Kindon (Haden Hill) 26.81. 200m butterfly: 1, H Slater (Warrington Warriors) 2:15.59; 2, N Goodwin (Nova Centurion) 2:17.40; 3, A Bennett (Nova Centurion) 2:17.55. 200m medley: 1, S Hardcastle (Bracknell) 2:18.39, 2, Bennett 2:16.43; 3, Slater 2:18.18.

THE [illegible] TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL
Scores from the FA Carling Premiership
Call 0839 555 562
Scores from the Endsleigh and Scottish leagues
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 36p per min cheap rate, 48p per min at all other times

RACING RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good

12.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, MYSILV (A Maguire, 10-11 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Ground Nut (J Osborne, 11-1); 3, Spring Marathon (P Holley, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 9 Duveen (f), 12 My Ballyboy (l), 16 Eburg (5th), 20 Bajan Affair (4th), 25 Who's The Best (f), 50 Forever Shining (6th), Tony's Mist (bd). 10 ran. 8l, 25l, dist, 2½l, 6l. D Nicholson at Temple Gulting. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.10, £1.50. DF: £8.40. CSF: £11.82.

12.35 (2m 4f hdle) 1, BOOK OF MUSIC (D Murphy, 2-1 fav; Richard Evans's rep); 2, Kyition Castle (D Meredith, 6-1); 3, Ivor's Flutter (P Holley, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Golden Spinner (4th), 9 Julips Genius (6th), 14 Skeough, 16 Graham Gooch (5th), 25 Miss Cruise, 66 Loyal Gait, 100 Mariano, Mariners Memory, 11 ran. 1l, 1l, 1½l, 2l, 25l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £5.70. CSF: £14.01.

1.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, MULBANK (M Hourigan, 10-11 fav); 2, Dr Rocket (D Meredith, 5-2); 3, Pats Minstrel (A Thornton, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Whatever You Like (4th). 4 ran. 3l, 15l, 10l. P Hobbs at Minehead. Tote: £1.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.46.

1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, SAND-DOLLAR (S McNeill, 13-2); 2, Nahar (A Dicken, 7-1); 3, Monday Club (D Meade, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 ji-fav Alberbo (5th), Propaganda (6th), 15-2 Statajack (4th), 14 King's Shilling. 7 ran. 1½l, 5l, 3½l, ¾l, 1l. J Old at Broughton. Tote: £3.00; £2.80, £2.70. DF: £13.00. CSF: £43.37.

2.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, SEE MORE INDIANS (G Bradley, 2-5 fav); 2, Earth Summit (C Llewellyn, 4-1); 3, Wild Fortune (M A Fitzgerald, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Gabriella Mia (6th), 66 Spartan Flapjack (5th). 5 ran. NR: Ask For More. 2½l, dist, dist, dist. P Nicholls at Sheplon Mellet. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.23.

2.55 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, FLASHING STEEL (R Dunwoody, 4-1 ji-fav); 2, Ushers Island (N Williamson, 5-1); 3, Topsham Bay (J Frost, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 ji-fav Light Veneer (4th), 8-2 Superior Finish (5th), 8 Indian Tonic (6th), 9 Duntree, 11 Fleshthecash. 8 ran. 5l, 3l, ¾l, 15l, 10l. J Mulham in Ireland. Tote: £3.80; £1.40, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £11.90. CSF: £21.42. Tricast: £238.38.

3.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, NEWTON POINT (T Jenks, 11-1); 2, Sillars Stalker (W Marston, 11-2); 3, Coraco (D Bridgwater, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Aahsayfied, 11-2 Dark Honey (f), 15-2 Countorus (4th), 9 Pamber Priory, 10 Flyer's Nap (6th), 16 Metal-Oleaau, 33 Elegant King (5th), 50 Lyphanto, 200 Taxi Lad (pu), 12 ran. NR: Uluru. 1l, 15l, 2l, 3½l, 6l. T George at Stroud. Tote: £10.20; £2.00, £2.20, £2.40. DF: £21.70. CSF: £83.13. Tricast: £670.98.

Jackpot: £878.70.

Placepot: £50.30.

Doncaster

Going: good (good to soft in places)

12.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, POWLEYVALE (L Wyer, 13-8 fav); 2, Another Nick (P Williams, 5-1); 3, Titan Girl (P Niven, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Ottoman Empire, 9 Grafins Bar (pu), 14 Must Be Magical (6th), 16 Aurora Lad, Trewvethan (4th), 20 Master Bavard (6th), 33 Andreth, 50 Rakes Of Mallow, 11 ran. NR: Dynamico Dan. 8l, 2½l, 9l, 8l, 25½l. B Pothwell at Wenthill. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £5.10. CSF: £10.70.

12.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, AL FORUM (D O'Sullivan, 9-2); 2, Summers Dream (C Hawkins, 5-1); 3, Skimmer Hawk (V Smith, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Port In A Storm, 3-2 Mr Abbot (4th), 5 Missed The Boat, 12 Million Rooms, 16 Mary Mackiean (5th), Ravenspur, Spray Of Orchids (6th), 25 Thatched, 33 Big Gem, Eve's Treasure (pu), Rythmic Rymer, 50 Maribella (l). 15 ran. 5l, 8l, 1l, 10l. 8l. R Ingram at Fishanon. Tote: £6.10; £2.20, £2.00, £4.00. DF: £18.70. CSF: £34.86.

1.20 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, GNOME'S TYCOON (J Railton, 7-2); 2, Dragons Den (G Upton, 11-8 fav); 3, Vulrony's Clown (M Brennan, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Pms Gunner (5th), 7 Wigtown Bay (4th). 5 ran. NR: Persian House. 15l, 10l, 12l, 15l. R Phillips at Sparshok. Tote: £4.50; £2.50, £1.60. DF: £5.40. CSF: £8.05.

1.55 (3m ch) 1, VELEDA II (J Burke, 5-1); 2, The Lighter Side (Judy Davies, 14-1); 3, Westwell Boy (C Hawkins, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Duhallow Lodge (pu), 11-4 Spirit Of Kibris (5th), 4 I'm Toby (4th), 50 Sophint (pu). 7 ran. 2½l, hd, 15l, nk. Mrs S Bramell at Thirsk. Tote: £6.50; £2.40, £4.00 DF: £21.20. CSF: £55.41.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, ALLEGATION (M Foster, 5-1); 2, Banahen (D O'Sullivan, 13-2); 3, Caragh Bridge (R Supple, 16-1) ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Gotta Be Joking (6th), 9-2 Artic Wings (4th), 16 Crooked Dealer, Welsey Lad, 20 Monastic Flight (5th), 25 Mallusedone, 33 Leemed Star (pu), Strathbogie Mist (pu). 40 Cool Parade (pu). 12 ran. 4l, 5l, 19l, 5l, 20l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £3.10, £2.50. DF: £53.50. Trio: £189.60. CSF: £37.18. Tricast: £458.13.

3.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, AROUND THE HORN (D Fortt, 7-4); 2, Mega Blue (C Woodall, 6-4 fav); 3, Wickfield Lad (Guy Lewis, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Absalor (4th). 4 ran. 1½l, 25l, 20l. A Turnell at Wantage. Tote: £2.70. DF: £3.60 CSF: £4.59.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdl) 1, DUNNOHALM (Mr S Swiers, 5-1); 2, Sliddaw Samba (M Harrington, 8-1); 3, Chino's Delight (Guy Lewis, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Glandalane Lady, 6 Lexy Lady (5th), Miss Palaface, 12 Emerald Queen, 14 Apache Gold, Botaney Girl, Gay's Gambit, 16 Corn Bow (4th), 20 Anne Carter, Arley Gale, 25 Breed Of Heaven, Cereal Gem (6th), 33 Captiva Bay, Catch The Pigeon, 17 ran. NR: Quadrispol 2l, sh hd, 3l, 2l, 1½l. Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk. Tote: £8.40; £3.10, £2.50, £2 40. DF: £36.50. CSF: £50.41.

Placepot: £487.10.

40
RUGBY UNION 33
ACCUSATIONS OF FOUL PLAY SHADOW BATH'S TITLE PUSH

SPORT

SIMON BARNES 39
FOOTBALL HOLDS ITS BREATH AS BEN JOHNSON STEPS UP

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 1993

Robson free to fill vacancy at Goodison

BY KEITH PIKE

BOBBY Robson, the former England football manager, was yesterday dismissed as coach of Sporting Lisbon, the Portuguese club. He should not be out of work long, with Everton among the clubs thought most likely to consider making an approach.

Following the unexpected resignation of Howard Kendall last Saturday, Dr David Marsh, the Everton chairman, had said his club "could look abroad for a new coach, possibly an Englishman working on the Continent". Robson has also been viewed as a possible "father figure" in the two-tier management system the FA is considering adopting after Graham Taylor's resignation.

Robson, 60, who led England to the World Cup quarter-finals in 1986 and the semi-finals in Italy four years later, had five months of his two-year contract with Sporting Lisbon to run.

The club is fourth in the Portuguese league, only one point behind Benfica, but Robson has paid the price for their elimination from the Uefa Cup on Wednesday. They led 2-0 from the first leg of their third-round tie with Casino Salzburg, of Austria, but were beaten 3-2 on aggregate.

Robson left a press conference at the Alvalade stadium without speaking to reporters, having said goodbye to the players. He has been replaced by Carlos Queiros, the manager of the national team that failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals from Scotland's group, who becomes Sporting's thirteenth coach in the last 12 seasons.

Jose Sousa Cintra, the Sporting president, said he had not discussed Robson's future plans with him, but said that, under the terms of his contract, Robson would continue to be paid until he joined a new club. "I am sure this will happen quickly because Bobby Robson is a well-known and respected man in the world of soccer," Sousa Cintra said.

"This decision does not call into question Robson's prestige. I am still his friend but Robson belongs to the past."

The players were taken unawares by Robson's departure. Jorge Cadete, the captain, said his team was "shocked, completely taken by surprise" by the news. "No one expected this," he said.

Robson joined Sporting last summer after his two-year contract with PSV Eindhoven had not been extended. He had led PSV to victory in the Dutch cup in his first season and the championship in his second, but they were knocked out of both European competitions in the early rounds.

He was the fourth Englishman to manage Sporting after John Toshack, Keith Burkinshaw and Malcolm Allison, the latter having helped secure the club's last championship success in 1982.

Sporting finished third in the Portuguese league in Robson's first season, nine points behind FC Porto, and won their first six league matches this season. It was his decision to field an attacking side in Wednesday's match against Salzburg "that forced the final decision", Sousa Cintra said.

Robson, who won 20 England caps and enjoyed a distinguished playing career with Fulham and West Bromwich Albion, started his managerial career with Fulham and enjoyed huge success with Ipswich Town. In 13 seasons at Portman Road between 1969 and 1982 he helped them to win the FA Cup, beating Arsenal 1-0 in the 1978 final, and the Uefa Cup in 1981, when they defeated AZ 67 Alkmaar 5-4 on aggregate.

Ipswich also finished runners-up in the league in successive seasons before Robson succeeded Ron Greenwood as manager of England.

☐ Martin Ling, the Swindon Town midfield player, has asked for a transfer after being relegated to substitute for the midweek FA Carling Premiership defeat against Oldham Athletic. "I told the manager [John Gorman] that I don't think he has the belief in me that he had," Ling, 27, said. He has been recalled to the side for the match against Liverpool at Anfield today.

☐ Players with Hartlepool United, the struggling second division club, have decided to play against Brighton today after threatening to strike when their wage cheques bounced. "The game will go on," Tim Carter, the Hartlepool goalkeeper and Professional Footballers' Association representative, said.

Women bowled over in dress revolution



Teenager Amy Gowshall displays, left, a fashion beyond her years at this year's English championships and, right, in more familiar attire

Hats off to bowls' changing image

David Rhys Jones looks at attempts to bring the women's game into the Nineties with a new fashion for the first time in over 60 years

Little has changed in the genteel world of women's bowls since 1902, when *Girl's Realm* commended the game to the young women of England, calling Drake's ancient pastime "a graceful game for girls". Suddenly, revolution is in the air.

The first rallying shouts were heard last weekend in the unlikely surroundings of the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Cheers rang out when the members of the Scottish Women's Bowling Association (SWBA) were told that, at last, international women bowlers could take off their hats. When, moments later, the SWBA secretary, Eleanor Allan, said that from next season women could play bare-headed in the Scottish championships, the cheers might have raised the roof.

Hats, it turns out, are at the bottom of the problem but the announcement in Edinburgh, which in turn reflected a move by the senior body, the British Isles Women's Bowling Council (BIWBC), may lead to a solution.

When the eight members of the council (two from each of the ruling bodies of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) met during the Atlantic Rim tournament in Florida in October, it was mooted that women should be allowed to wear coloured polo shirts above their white skirts rather than the regulation white blouse and tie.

The proposal, which must be confirmed by the council in the spring, was designed to brighten the image of the women's game but it raised the question of hats. The white hats, unpopular with the majority of players to begin with, would hardly be the right topping to such an ensemble.

Women bowlers in England (they are not quite so strictly governed in the other three countries) must wear hats at all times, even in the car as they arrive for a club match, never mind for an international. But most bowlers at grass-roots level, particularly the younger ones, are demanding a new look and especially a change from the frumpy image given by the hats, gloves, tights and brown shoes. Many young women are simply not prepared to put up with the dress code and drift away.

The lead taken by the BIWBC, if confirmed, would apply only to the home international tournament in June but, as the Scots so readily showed in Edinburgh, women at other levels of the game will certainly follow it.

The hats-off brigade can also point to major international events like the Commonwealth Games, where bowls is accepted as a proper sport. In such competitions, bowlers are regarded as athletes and the participants are allowed to wear the dress favoured by their country (Indian bowlers, for example, play in saris). An Englishwoman might be thought to have enough on her plate trying to bowl for a medal, without having to keep one hand on her hat.

The trouble started in 1931, the year the English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA) was formed. The ground rules for women's participation and in particular the dress code, were set in the style of the times, and they have been preserved, as if in aspic, since.

The hats introduced in 1931 resembled the cloche hats of the 1920s. Just put a band around one of those, turn up the brim, and there it is: the prototype hat. The basic design has hardly changed in 60 years.

"The blessed hat has to be worn at all times," one leading player said yesterday. "On the green, at lunch, and even on the coach or in the car on the way to the venue. What is more, the hat has to conform to strict standards, and the bow always has to be on the left." Kit inspection is a vital part of any fixture or championship.

But if most active players would like to take their hats off for good, the idea is anathema to the game's administrators. When, three years ago, Nancie Colling, the formidable secretary of the EWBA, was asked when the EWBA would dispense with the hats and gloves to make the game more attractive to young women, she replied: "All the young ladies at the church I attend, wear hats and gloves. People are always telling us how smart we look."

Although her view is the official English one, there are plenty of dissident whispers. Few people speak out loud, however, for fear of losing their places in their club, county or national teams. The decision for next year's series is likely to go through, despite objections. All over England, hats will be flung into the air.

Leading article, page 17

Southend furious at departure of Fry

BY KEITH PIKE

BARRY Fry yesterday walked out on Southend United, where he was under contract, to take over as manager of Birmingham City, leaving Vic Jobson, the Southend chairman, "disgusted and distraught".

Jobson said: "I met Barry on Thursday night and he told me he was going to stay. We shook hands on the deal. He said he was committed to Southend. Instead, 12 hours later, I discovered he was joining Birmingham."

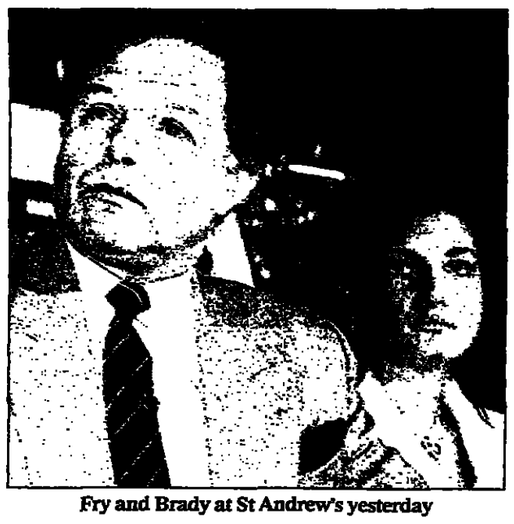
Edwin Stein, Fry's assistant, and David Howell, the player-coach, have followed him to Birmingham and Jobson yesterday lodged a formal complaint with the Football League, alleging that Birmingham had been in breach of regulation 93. This states: "No club shall, directly or indirectly, induce or attempt to induce any employee of another club ... to terminate a contract of employment with that club."

A League spokesman confirmed that Birmingham will be asked to explain their actions. "If the comments attributed to David Sullivan [the Birmingham owner] are accurate, then there seems to be a fairly blatant breach of regulations," he said.

Jobson said Southend would be looking for compensation of up to £1 million, and that fining Birmingham would not be sufficient punishment. "They have got to have points deducted, perhaps six, to deter other clubs from acting in this way," he said.

Fry, 48, took Barnet into the Football League before joining Southend in April. Having steered them away from the threat of relegation, he had established them as promotion contenders.

"David Sullivan and Karren Brady [the chief executive] have got great ambitions," Fry said. "They want to make Birmingham a great club and I want to be part of it. I feel I have done all I can at Southend."



Fry and Brady at St Andrew's yesterday

Gillingham disqualified for faulty turn

BY CRAIG LORD

A WORLD champion for just six days, Nick Gillingham was brought back to earth yesterday when a judge at the Amateur Swimming Association winter championships in Gloucester disqualified him for a faulty turn.

The decision deprives Gillingham, 26, of the chance to fulfil his main aim at the meet: to break the British record at 100 metres breaststroke, swim below one minute for the first time and confirm that he is capable of holding peak form over a two-week period. That is particularly important to Gillingham, given the proximity of the Commonwealth Games and world championships next summer.

Gillingham was furious at finding he had been disqualified on what was thought to be the judgment of Blair Prentice, a referee from Stirling. The decision was upheld by the referee, David Hoskins, of the West Counties ASA. Gillingham was said to have executed an illegal butterfly, or dolphin, kick out of his second turn in the morning heats. However, neither referee nor judge would confirm that Blair had been responsible for making the decision.



Gillingham: banned

Gillingham pointed out that his time, a slow 1min 03.09sec, which was good enough to qualify for the final, was one that would not have required him to cheat.

The world champion at 200 metres, said: "This judge has no serious international experience. He should take a look at what goes on at world level."

A bubble of water at the end of each kick is regularly seen in international breaststoke swimming, the dolphin action accepted as a natural follow-through motion.

"There wasn't even any undulation in my stroke at that speed," Gillingham said. "It's a shame and a disappointment for the championships and for British swimming."

Hoskins said that he was aware of who the swimmer in question was, but that his judge had been unfaltering in his explanation.

When he should have been warming up for the final, Gillingham was on the golf course with Adrian Moorhouse, the former Olympic champion whose British record he had hoped to break last night. Alex Clapper, of Coventry, won the title in 1min 03.05sec.

Moorhouse said there was a "big discrepancy" between judging in Britain and in international competition.

Hardcastle record, page 38







HEALTH

Sean Hughes, fit for nothing

A weekend at Champneys, page 9



WINE

Jane MacQuitty's Christmas buys

High street wine guide, page 5



FASHION

The Clothes Show Live

New models in Birmingham, page 12

MAKE YOUR HOME IN A CASTLE
Page 13

WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 1993

Drink, drive and be sorry

The penalty of pleasure: **Brian MacArthur** confesses his drink-driving sins, but asks for mercy



OK, hands up, it was a fair cop. As the policeman waved me over to the side of the road, I realised that I was about to become another Christmas drink-driving statistic, although I resisted the temptation to do a Bogart and say so.

Sod's law dictated that I was stopped on the one night in a thousand when I was over the limit after a convivial dinner party. Of course I should not have been driving after drinking. But I wasn't involved in an accident, and I wonder still whether I would have been stopped if I hadn't then been driving a BMW. Ever since that night I have also cursed the act of generosity that made me offer a friend the lift home which took me on a direct path to the policeman who stopped me. I would not have been stopped, and only 400 yards from home (would I?), if I had taken my normal route. Sod's law yet again.

All the clichés come true at that moment when you are assessed ever so politely by the law and realise that you are suddenly on the wrong side of it. You *do* feel a wrench in the pit of your stomach as the police decide whether to wield the Breathalyser. My reading was 53 — only, to my subsequent surprise, three points over the limit.

The first shock occurred when we got into the panda car. The driver radioed back to the station: "Prisoner on board." I shall never forget that one word. Prisoner? Me? Damn, damn, damn. Damn drink. Damn the law. Damn acts of friendship. I cursed myself even as the self-pity swelled.

The studious courtesy of the police continued at the station where I was tested again and the reading was confirmed. At least, unlike a few friends who have drunk too much, I did not have to spend a night in the cells.

My reaction next day was to consult two solicitor friends. Both gave the same deadly accurate answer. Don't even bother. The sentence is automatic. You will be fined and banned for a year. (NB: one danger, if you get caught in the next two weeks, is that you will suffer an exemplary sentence and be sent to jail as a deterrent).

So three weeks later I sat waiting for nearly three hours at Highbury Magistrates' Court in London. Unless they are magistrates or jurors, most middle-class people rarely see inside a courtroom. To watch the sad parade of petty crime that goes briskly through the average magistrates' court is a depressing experience, the more so as you realise that you are one of the criminals awaiting sentence and are being treated as such.

The verdict was swift. After pleading guilty, I was banned from driving for a year, fined £250 and had my driving licence confiscated. Those were only two of the punishments, however. Next day I realised that the third was to be condemned to use London Underground, and the justly infamous Northern Line, for the next 230 working days. Only a year later did I realise that there were actually seven punishments for my one deadly sin.

If a £250 fine — the first punishment — is a setback to the family finances, especially just before Christmas, the shock of losing your car is even greater. Until you are banned from driving, you don't realise how central a car is to everyday life. Shopping by car at Marks & Spencer or Sainsbury's is easy. Walking home laden with four full carrier bags makes you swear never to drink gin again. The school run becomes impossible. Travelling to Cornwall for the annual summer holiday costs £80 by car. The return fare to Penzance for four is £448.

Getting to work in London is agony enough by car. Using the Underground is infinitely worse. From where I live in north London, unless you were on the train by 7.50am, the daily fate was to travel in conditions so crammed that you could not even read a newspaper, a sentence that hundreds of thousands, of course, suffer every day. I got off at the station with the longest escalator in London. All too often it was out of action. The puddle that I had to walk through on Day One was still there on Day 230 — and still is, three years later. I devised new tests of happiness and unhappiness. Happiness was when the indicator board said: High Barnet — 2 minutes.

As fellow sufferers comfortingly pointed out, time passes, and sooner than you think you are counting down the days to getting your licence back. Yet the day you start driving again is when you discover it is not only the courts who punish the drink-driver. Still more punishments are levied. One is that your motor insurance increases dramatically — and not just for one year. The premium on drink-drivers lasts for a minimum of five years and a maximum of 11. My car insurance had been £280 a year. It went up to £604. So over the 11 years *after* my ban I shall pay an extra "fine" of more than £3,000. Yet another punishment is that you cannot hire a car from Hertz for another five years or from Avis for a year. A seventh, of course, is that your driver's licence marks you out for life. "Been in a bit of trouble before, have we, sir?"

As they punish drink-drivers, motor insurers presumably argue that if they have fallen foul of the law once, they will do it again. Yet surely you drive even more carefully and take far fewer risks after you have been banned. Never again is certainly my motto. So if I am going to a party I either don't drive, drink no more than two small glasses of wine, or go by taxi.

Although, through more than 30 years of driving, I have never been involved in an accident and detest the sanctimoniousness of some of the puritans who want to take all the fun and danger from life, I suppose I deserved my punishment of a fine and a year's ban. What rankles is the continuing punishment levied by insurance companies and car rental companies.

The annual Christmas drink-driving campaign was launched this week. Newspapers and television will put drivers who are caught in the dock and parade them for public censure. That is inevitable and right. All I hope is that the moralisers who urge even stiffer penalties will realise that those drivers whose only offence is to be slightly over the limit get pretty harshly treated already.

- ☐ The maximum penalty is a £5,000 fine and/or six months in prison. A driving ban is automatic.
- ☐ The penalty depends on the offender's alcohol level, previous record and mitigating circumstances.
- ☐ Insurance companies raise premiums or reduce/refuse cover when motorists are convicted of drink/driving.
- ☐ Of 531,000 breath tests taken in 1992, 87,000 were positive.
- ☐ Last year 4.65% of accidents resulting in injury involved illegal levels of alcohol.

Information supplied by the Automobile Association

Pouring coal on troubled waters

Oliver Tickell on the threat to our rivers from mine closures

COUNTRY MATTERS

As British Coal relentlessly shuts down mine after mine, spare a thought for the forgotten casualty: besides the jobless miners and their devastated communities, the rivers will suffer from poisoning by toxic pollution pouring from the abandoned mine workings.

Well over 280 miles of river and canal in England and Wales have already been sterilised by these acidic, metal-rich discharges, a figure that is now — in the absence of firm government action — set for rapid increase.

Take the Rhymney in Gwent, the recent subject of a legal action by the Anglers Cooperative Association. Following more than a century of heavy industrial pollution, the ACA's members were delighted, during the 1980s, to find brown trout returning to the river. But delight turned to shock after British Coal switched off the pumps at the nearby Britannia mine in 1990.

For the first few years, nothing happened while the mine workings filled up with water. But by 1992, the Rhymney was running red with iron deposits that coated the river bed, killing invertebrates and choking the spawning gravels. The ACA turned for help to the National Rivers Authority, only to find its legal powers strangely circumscribed.

The NRA can control discharges from a working mine, the ACA discovered. But under Section 89 of the 1991 Water Resources Act, the owners of abandoned mines enjoy a surprising exemption: no offence is committed by permitting contaminated water from an abandoned mine to enter a controlled watercourse: nor can the NRA recover the costs of cleaning that pollution up. So the ACA itself took British Coal to court for causing pollution on the Rhymney — apparently forbidden under the Act's section 85 — and for knowingly causing damage to fish and spawning grounds, contrary to Section 4 of the 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act.

Before the jury had even considered the evidence, the case was dismissed in Cardiff Crown Court last week because, said Judge Graham Jones, it was impossible to identify the origin of the pollution out of the many old mine workings in the area, or to prove that British Coal had acted in knowledge of the consequences.

Significantly, costs were awarded out of central funds, showing that the case was based on a valid legal argument; and the ACA is considering an appeal. Meanwhile the pollution continues.

The next major battle is due in County Durham, where the entire coalfield is set for closure. Here, nine pumping stations are pouring a daily 105 million litres of clean water into the river Wear and its tributaries, home to migratory salmon and sea trout.

But with the closure of the county's last collieries, at Easington and Vane Tempest, the pumps will be switched off. At first, river flows will suffer as the aquifers recharge. Then the groundwater, polluted with acidic iron sulphate from the mines, will run into the Wear and coastal watercourses. Goodbye salmon, goodbye sea trout.

Similar problems will follow the closure of Nottinghamshire's last mine at Annersley Bentwick, from which 10 million litres are pumped daily. Here, fears Harvey Woods of the Clean Rivers Trust, highly acidic water will eat into the foundations of property, emerge from old drift mines, and bring to nought the efforts of Severn and Trent Water to clean up the rivers Erewash and Trent.

So what is to be done? One small but positive movement is the conclusion of an agreement between the NRA and British Coal, under which the two will hold regular meetings and BC will give the NRA 14 days' notice of its intention to suspend pumping.

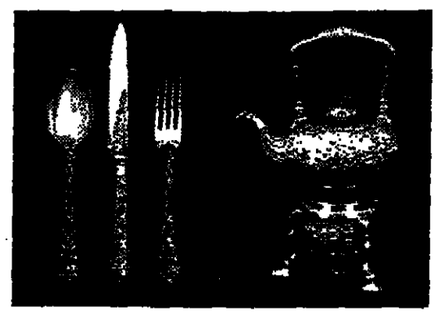
But with BC still enjoying immunity from the costs of pre-closure research, long-term water pumping or remedial measures, this remains a long way from a solution. Moreover, no matter how such costs end up being allocated, saving the rivers will mean spending quite a lot of taxpayers' money.

Showing the way forward, the European Commission, the NRA, the Welsh Development Agency and West Glamorgan County Council are to share the £1 million cost of restoring the "yellow river" Pelenna, near Tonmawr, by neutralising its mineral pollutants in an artificial wetland ecosystem.

But to make such initiatives the rule not the exception, the government must intervene with substantial funds — and ensure that solutions are in place before, not after, the pumps are switched off.

Colonnade Sales.

Affordable Prices.



You don't have to be a millionaire with a penchant for Picasso to enjoy our auctions.

At our regular Colonnade Sales you can buy a wonderful array of carefully selected items estimated at between just £200 and £4000 (perfect prices and timing for that rather special last minute Christmas present).

There's some beautiful English furniture in the Hockenhull Collection on 15th December, together with ceramics, pictures, pewter and works of art. And on the 16th & 17th December you will find silver, furniture and rugs.

All of which may be viewed from Monday through to Wednesday. For details and a catalogue either call in at our Bond Street galleries or call Elizabeth Treip on 071 408 5118.

Bond Street, London,
15th to 17th December 1993

The *Hockenhull Collection*
15th December
and
English Furniture, Rugs & Silver
16th & 17th December.

SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

Oakley Court, the setting of many horror films, yields up its dark secrets to **Alan Franks**, who only went there for the fishing

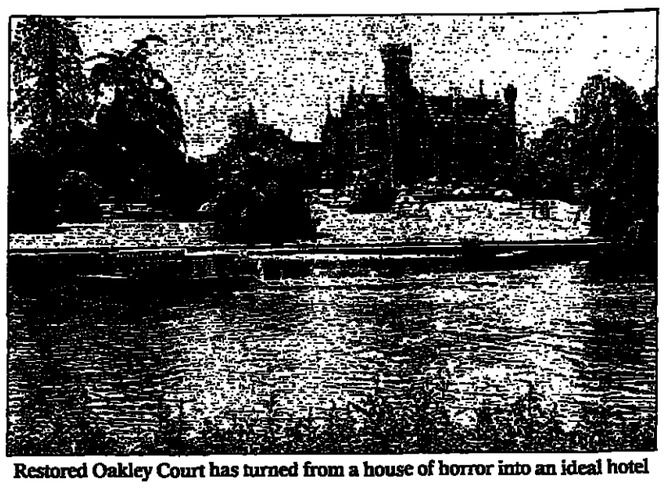
Hammer's château

In the sequence of the *Rocky Horror Show* movie when Brad and Janet turn up soaking at the portals of a Gothic monstrosity, he turns to her and says: "I guess it's some hunting lodge for rich wierdos." Wrong, Brad. This is the famous Oakley Court Hotel in Berkshire, the extraordinary assortment of turrets and gables that staggers the boaters as they pootle up the Thames from Windsor.

When Brad and Janet arrived, back in the 1970s, Oakley Court had fallen into near-terminal disrepair, open to the sky, not a window remaining, with trees growing from the floors in Wordsworthian abandon and crashing their way out through stones and lintels. The place had become a sort of star, professionally degenerate and hence the perfect set for the countless films being made just down the road at Bray Studios. Apart from *Rocky Horror*, there were *Half a Sixpence*, Peter Sellers' *Murder By Death*, and the Hammer *Dracula* films.

No matter that their occupancy was fleeting and fictional, these were towering presences, and to stay here is to be enfolded by a bricks-and-mortar creature with a pronounced sense of the dramatic. Like an ornate aunt with skeletons in her cupboard, it compels you to hang around in the hope of discovering the past. This is not an entirely straightforward business, and just as the building managed to keep an inner vault undetected for years after the death of a previous owner, so it is grudging about yielding up its origins. The story is that when it was built in 1859 for Sir Richard Hall Say, he had it done in the style of a château to ease the homesickness of his young French wife.

A subsequent owner bought the place, plus 50 acres of woodland, for £27,000 in 1919, entertained foreign diplomats here and honoured them by flying the flag of their nation on the still-remaining pole. A further boast is that the building served during the last war as headquarters for the French resistance, and that General de Gaulle stayed here. With such a cosmopolitan history, it is no wonder that there is something indefinably "other" about staying in the ostensibly so-English Oakley Court.



Restored Oakley Court has turned from a house of horror into an ideal hotel

I went there partly because I wanted to catch a fish for my own lunch. This may be a commonplace activity for you, but for me it is as unfamiliar as water-skiing to work. And I went because long ago I had been one of those boaters who had spotted the place, set back up there on its textbook lawn. One more reason: I have always taken a particular pleasure in those parts of England where the countryside becomes worthy of the name as it pulls clear of the town and its sphere of influence. I will always think of it as Green Line country.

I took the unsung slow train that makes its way, via Staines, to the station called Windsor and Eton Riverside. This tiny line was built for Queen Victoria, and it stopped where she did. Today it still shares the destiny of the royal family, and is considered under threat.

Oakley Court cost a fortune to rescue from the maw of neglect — £5 million, and that was 12 years ago. Inside the mansion itself, all the plastering and a good deal of the furniture was restored. There are six suites in this main part, and a total of 92 bedrooms in the whole hotel, which includes the riverside and garden wings. Mercifully, it still retains its air of space in the midst of a busy spell. For all I know it is like one of the swans on the river, retaining its serene appearance while paddling like hell.

I caught the trout. I caught two actually. Martin, who runs the Felix Farm Trout Fishery, said I had a natural action with the line, but I think I was pathetic. The fish did not think much of me either and took a long time to do their bit.

At least the chef knew what he was up to and cooked my mighty trophies *à la* Isaak Walton, garnished with grated horseradish and ground ginger. The catching, I feel, is the easy part.

WHAT IT COSTS

☐ The four-star Oakley Court is offering a three-night package from December 24 to 26, (including three nights' accommodation, all meals and entertainment.) Adults, £350 per person sharing a twin or double room (single supplement £100); children 5-16 years, £160 each sharing accommodation; under five, free when sharing parents' accommodation.

☐ Accommodation rates per person, per night, including breakfast, through the Christmas period, range from £49.50 to £99. Daily rates between December 24 and 30 range between £49.50 to £99.

☐ On New Year's Eve there is a St Trinian's buffet/dance, with rates, including accommodation, from £85 to £135. There is a special New Year Break offer (minimum stay two nights) between January 1 and 9, with prices ranging from £17.50 to £66.

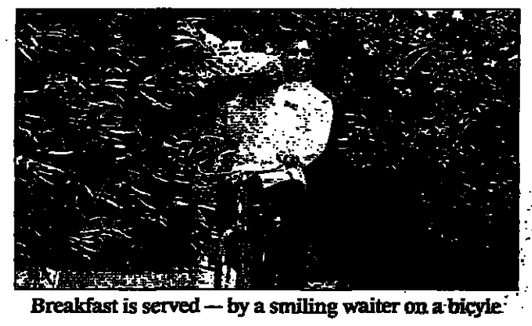
☐ Seasonal lunches and dinners are available until lunchtime on Christmas Eve, featuring traditional menus.

☐ Reservations and further information, 0628 74141.

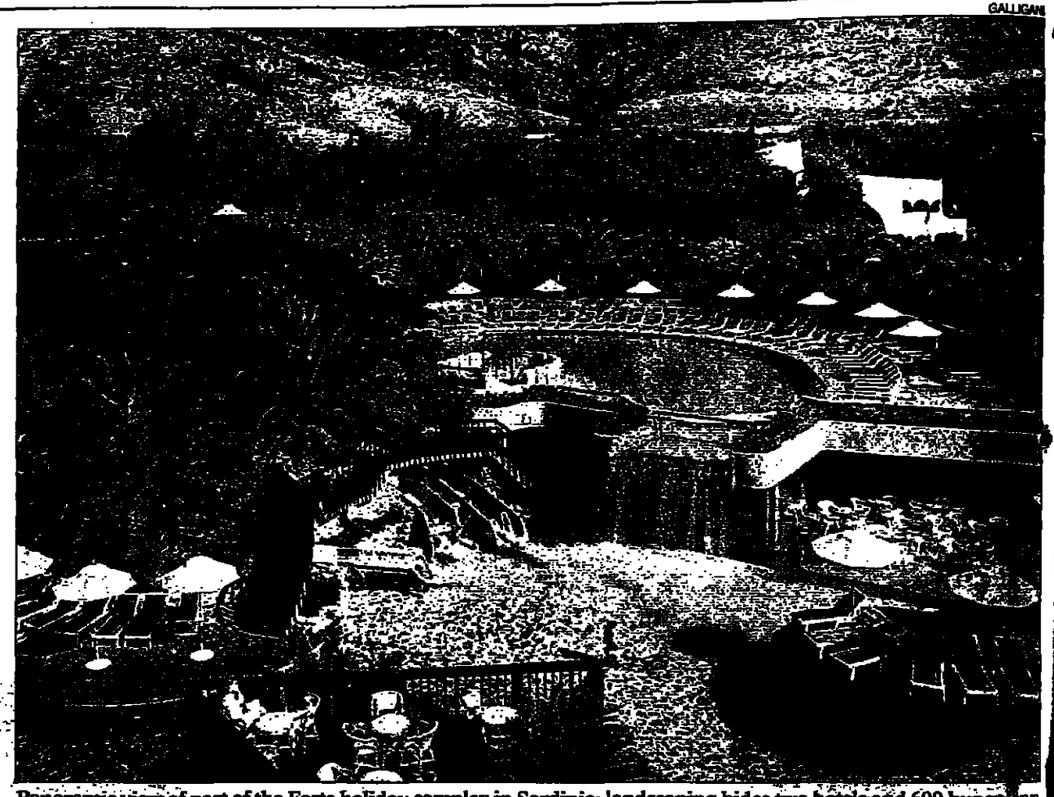
GALLIGAN

Idyll days in a healthy haven on the Med

After a fitness test, **Patrick O'Hanlon** soaks up the luxury living at the Forte Village in Sardinia



Breakfast is served — by a smiling waiter on a bicyle



Panoramic view of part of the Forte holiday complex in Sardinia; landscaping hides two hotels and 600 bungalows

Talk of health spas, fitness regimes and the prospect of a medical examination on arrival for a stress-free break made me feel, well, stressful. The assurance that my stay at the Forte Village in southern Sardinia would be pampered did little to lessen my apprehension. But I had been lulled into a false sense of insecurity. The resort, it soon became apparent, offered enough diversions to engage the energetic, the adventurous and, most importantly, those like myself who avoid exertion.

The examination, at the hands of the affable Dr Francesco, one of three resident practitioners, was rudimentary and painless. Offered to guests wishing to use the resort's Terme del Parco health spa, it comes with a useful personalised dietary and exercise regime. It was also reassuring to have Dr Francesco — through his interpreter — pronounce my blood pressure, brain action and heart to be in good order.

The spa, like the rest of the village, has been decorated with thousands of imported plants — eucalyptus, palms, banana trees, orange blossom, hibiscus and oleander — chosen for their colour and scent. They create a tropical air and keep 300 gardeners busy.

I decided to set a few hours aside on each of my five days to work up a sweat in the spa's well-equipped gymnasium, sauna, Turkish bath (in which swimwear must be worn) and solarium. The activities, including races against a computer-graphic opponent on the high-tech rowing machines, were exhausting but fun.

The "aesthetic and curative" manicures and pedicures, and the whirlpool seaweed skin treatments of the beauty centre, were not quite me, but my female companions sang their praises. While they did so, I took a long-standing backache to the massage rooms where Guido and his oils worked wonders. Although I speak no Italian and he no English, it was surprising how complex a conversation we struck up.

The spa has four, heated, open-air seawater pools. The first, rich in minerals and with ten times the salinity of the Dead Sea, has the colour of pea soup and the texture of baby oil. The idea is to stretch out, eyes closed, and float under the warmth of the sun. Relaxation is total.

The salts sting freshly shaven skin or abrasions, and if the water gets in your eyes the tingling is soothed by the eucalyptus-infused flannels dispensed on a silver salver by the poolside attendant. The pools' whirlpools, jets and waterfalls deliver a bracing, frothy hydro-massage.

> At night, guests return to a decanter of port

The village nestles between soaring hills and pine forests to the north and a long, white sandy beach to the south. There are two air-conditioned hotels and 600 secluded bungalows with private patios. The Hotel Castello has 144 rooms with balconies and two beachside pools reserved for its guests. Soirées are held on its expansive white-tiled roof looking across a swathe of green pines to a sea of blue beyond.

The recently refurbished Villa del Parco, where I stayed, is a 25-room hotel with 18 nearby garden bungalows close to the spa. The spacious rooms have two kingsize beds, marbled bathrooms and satellite television.

On arrival, room service delivers a platter of fresh fruits, strawberries and cream, and a glass of champagne. Each afternoon, one's patio table is laden with fruits, canapés, cheeses and a bottle of wine in an ice bucket. Each night, one returns to a nightcap of a decanter of port.

The emphasis on health sits effortlessly with the abundance of fine foods in the resort's many restaurants. For the weight conscious, the Il Naturista restaurant serves calorie-counted dishes. Meals generally are taken al fresco, and, in the evening, by candlelight to the accompaniment of a pianist or string quartet under the pines, overlooking the sea or by the pool, depending on your choice of restaurant. Lavish buffets offer spreads of pastas, seafood and rich desserts. Meal prices include a bottle of wine and mineral water.

Although entry to the village is restricted to resident guests, it is advisable on arrival to make dinner reservations for the duration of your stay.

The resort is popular with couples and families. For the children there are organised beach games, an adventure playground, and a restaurant. Kindergarten services and babysitting are available.

For the athletic, qualified instructors offer lessons in waterskiing, windsurfing, scuba diving, tennis and aerobics. There are 17 floodlit tennis courts and two open-air squash courts. A yacht is available for trips along the coast, weighing anchor in a secluded cove for a swim while lunch is prepared on board. Stables provide riding lessons for novices and accompanied treks into the forests for the more experienced.

Hotel costs include the use of sports equipment such as racquets, but not bicycle hire, watersports, horse riding and the services of the spa.

One of the more rewarding excursions is the Land-Rover trip into the hills, with panoramic coastal views. The journey is broken at a mountaintop farm for a lunch of salami, cheeses and roast suckling pig, jugs of red wine and Mirto, a local digestif.

Back at the village, I slipped away to the spa for a final, solitary float in its warm waters. Bathtime will never be the same again.

GETTING THERE

☐ Patrick O'Hanlon travelled with Italian Escapades (081-748 2661). Prices at the Forte Village are from £707 per person for one week half-board in a superior bungalow, including direct flights and transfers. Five-star Villa Del Parco from £1,016 per week half-board including direct flights and transfers; half price for children aged two to 11 sharing a room with two adults. Minimum stay three nights. Entry to Terme Del Parco spa is £38 per day.

☐ For a brochure, call 081-563 0379 (24 hours).

RELAXING BREAK
TO SOOTHE
THE STRESS OF
EVERYDAY LIFE
FROM AS LITTLE AS
£31
PER PERSON, PER NIGHT
• THIRD NIGHT FREE
• BREAKFAST INCLUDED

GREAT VALUE SHORT BREAKS
Now you can have a relaxing break to cheer up those winter months with Country Club Hotels. From December 1st until the end of February you can unwind with a Short Break from as little as £31 per person per night – including breakfast.

3RD NIGHT FREE
In addition, take advantage of this special offer and you'll enjoy 3 nights for the price of 2, giving you an extra night free!*

SAVE AT LEAST £86
When two people share a twin or double room and take advantage of the third night free, they will save at least £86 over the normal price of a three night break.

FREE LEISURE FACILITIES
Not only do you have the choice of 10 Country Club Hotels, spread throughout the UK, but you also have a wealth of leisure pursuits to enjoy. Tennis, swimming, squash, jacuzzis and saunas are yours free when you book a Short Break with us. And, for a small extra charge, you can play golf at most hotels on one of our superb golf courses. For immediate bookings or further information, call Central Reservations on 0582 396969 and quote CD424.

FOR A BROCHURE, CALL FREE ON
0800 444878
AND QUOTE CD424
or post the coupon below.

* Our Winter Breakaway offer is based on Bed and Breakfast, per person per night. The 3rd night free must be taken as a consecutive night to your two night break. Offer subject to availability and for a maximum stay of two nights. Offer valid between 1st December 1993 and 28th February 1994 excluding the Christmas period of 20th December 1993 to 3rd January 1994.

Mercure Valley Hotel HAMPSHIRE, Goodwood Park Hotel SUSSEX, Tudor Park Hotel KENT, Redwood Lodge Hotel AVON, St. Pierre Hotel GWENT, Tortworth Park Hotel GLOUCESTERSHIRE, Forest of Arden Hotel WARWICKSHIRE, Breadsall Priory Hotel DERBYSHIRE, Broughton Park Hotel LANCASHIRE, Dalmahoy Hotel EDINBURGH.

Post to Country Club Hotels, Dept CD424, Winter Breakaway Offer, 1 Stanley Road, Bromley, BR2 2JE. Please send me details on Short Breaks at Country Club Hotels.
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE TELEPHONE
DO YOU OR YOUR PARTNER PLAY GOLF?

COUNTRY CLUB HOTELS
Experience the luxury of choice



ENJOY THE WARMTH OF SOUTH AFRICA, WITH £100 OFF ALL ECONOMY FLIGHTS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

For more details please contact your travel agent or nearest SAA office:

London Tel: 071-734 9841.
Manchester Tel: 061-834 4436.
Birmingham Tel: 021-643 9665.
Glasgow Tel: 041-221 0015.

SAA
SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

Summer has arrived;
SEYCHELLES
Exotic Beaches & Free Safari
Allamanda - Mahe, inc: Free PM Safari MRO From £824
(1Nt Nairobi & 7Nts Beach B & B)
ISLAND HOP
Reef Hotel - Mahe 7Nts + Preslin Beach Hotel From £1320
(Mahe 7Nts B & B, Preslin 7Nts H/B)

Taste the Wildlife of
KENYA
Safaris & Exotic Beaches;
Samburu Safari:
Samburu, Treetops, Lake & The Mara From £750
(7Nts Safari Full Board)
BEACH Add-On's To Samburu Safari From £140
(7Nts Beach Half Board)

The Exotic Taste of
INDIA
Land of Amazing Contrasts;
GOA From £299
(7 Nts Bed & Breakfast)
Wildlife & The South: 7 Nts Coa + Hassan, Mysore, Ooty & Cochin (Venice of East) From £760
(14 Nts Bed & Breakfast)

Call your ABTA Agent or
REQUEST YOUR BROCHURE
SOMAK Holidays
ESTABLISHED 1968
ABTA A8569 Telephone 081 423 3000 ATOL 2550

China
Widest choice of guided and independent tours out of UK and Hong Kong.
For the most comprehensive China brochure, ring CTS, No. 1 China Specialists!
071-836 9911
China Travel Service (UK) Ltd
24 Cambridge Circus
London WC2H 8HD
Fax 071-836 8121
ATOL 2047 ABTA A8893

هكذا من الأصل

Warm hearts on cold streets

As winter closes in on the homeless, Guy Walters meets the volunteers, young and old, who make up the Salvation Army mercy teams


ALAN WELLER

Sixth-former Angela Williams, a volunteer with the Salvation Army, extends a hand of friendship to Dave, sleeping rough outside the Savoy

David MacDonald works in personnel management. John Simons has retired from the Ford assembly line. Sophie Corbett is a nurse. Alan Walker is unemployed. All are volunteers for the Salvation Army's Outreach Centre in Westminster, London, a place where the homeless can "drop in" three nights a week to receive a cup of tea, some advice, a friendly chat, warmth, clothes and blankets.

The centre is run by Allister Duncan, who gave up his job as an accountant two years ago to devote his time to the homeless. "I was working for someone extremely rich, and he was making more and more money and not getting any happier," he says. Mr Duncan decided to devote his energies to those who had no money, in fact, nothing at all.

One of his key roles is to select the volunteers, without whom there would be no centre. Mr Duncan interviews everybody who wishes to be a volunteer, and the quality he looks for most is the ability to listen, and not necessarily to talk.


Amanda McGinty makes a bed

"Obviously, those with legal and medical skills are useful, but most volunteers don't see themselves as experts in proffering advice. It's more important that they know how to listen," he says. Why do people volunteer? "There is no one reason. Most of these people are simply concerned about a situation in which a healthy society can allow some to have nothing."

The volunteers reflect this. "My other job doesn't have a tangible effect on somebody's life," Mr MacDonald says. Mr Walker says: "I like helping people, and the satisfaction of giving a cup of tea and a sandwich to someone who really needs it." And Mr Simons says: "I do it because of the enjoyment, the pleasure — I experienced the same sort of homelessness when I was an evacuee during the second world war."

Even though Miss Corbett did not necessarily volunteer "as a do-gooder", her reason for helping is "a social thing: it gives me more social variety", she says.

Life in the centre resembles a get-together among friends, and friendships are formed between the helpers and the helped. "I'm not a do-gooder," another volunteer says, "I just like to build up relationships."

Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the volunteers from their "clients" among those laughing and talking in groups.

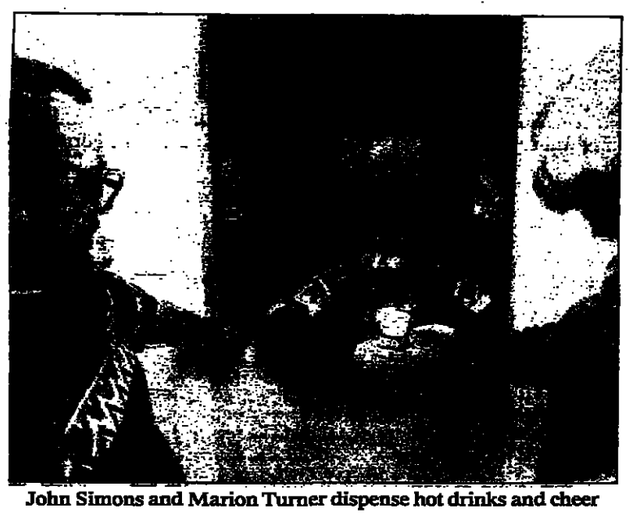
Clients occasionally behave violently, and Mr Duncan expresses frustration at those who are their own worst enemies: he cites the example of a 33-year-old man who repeatedly stole from a hostel, and eventually fled. Because of such dangers and frustrations, volunteers have the option to go along for an evening before they commit themselves, Mr Duncan says. If they wish to continue, he asks them to help a minimum of once a fortnight, and attend a training session once every six weeks.

Major Muriel McClenahan and her husband, Major Robert McClenahan, provide a nursery, meals, and care for the aged at the Salvation Army's centre in Hoxton, north London, as well as organising a soup-run around London. Their team also hands out hot drinks and sandwiches from a van in the small hours, and blankets to those sleeping rough.

Among volunteers regularly helping are sixth-formers from St James's High School in Cricklewood, north-west London. The head of the sixth form, Patrick McSharry, believes that "it gives the pupils a sense of reality of what's going on, which can only come from their going out and seeing the problem for themselves". Mrs McClenahan agrees: "It helps to form their minds. At their age, they have limitless compassion."

The atmosphere in the van is buoyant, as four girl volunteers brace themselves for a late night. Their enthusiasm is boundless as they busy around the chosen location — ironically in the shadow of the Savoy hotel — checking to see who wants sugar, who is vegetarian, and who is warm enough. Sixth-former Noelle Doona says: "We wish we could go out more often, but there's a list a mile long of those wanting to come along."

"Every one has more potential than they give themselves credit for," Mr Duncan says, and he is not just talking about the homeless.


John Simons and Marion Turner dispense hot drinks and cheer

How to help

☐ Those interested in volunteering should contact the Salvation Army headquarters at 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP (071-383 4230).

Other organisations which welcome volunteers are:

☐ Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1 9HU (071-253 0202).

☐ Crisis at Christmas, 84a Portland Street, Manchester M1 4QX 061 (061-237 1607) and 7 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DV (071-377 0489).

☐ The lobby group, Housing Campaign for Single People (CHAR); write to Heather Carter, CHAR, 5-15 Cromer Street, London WC1H 8LS (071-833 2071).

☐ Centrepoint, Gloucester Mansions, Cambridge Circus, London WC2 (071-629 2229).

WHY THE YOUNG ARE ON THE RUN



The dramatic increase in homelessness among young people can only be understood in terms of wider changes.

☐ There has been an overall increase in poverty, bigger in Britain than in any other EC country. One in four children lives in a family dependent on income support. Social security benefits available to young people have been reduced — both in regular weekly allowances and in payments for exceptional needs. This deterioration in the circumstances of poor families and the young has coincided with a reduction in the proportion of housing stock available to them.

☐ Social changes relating to family structure and function mean more young children grow up in families where the parents have split up. Research shows subsequent step-relationships are more likely to lead to difficulties for the young people involved — school truancy and under-achievement, unemployment and sudden departure from home.

☐ In recently completed interviews with groups of young homeless people in Scotland, two themes predominated: continual family arguments and the presence or threat of physical or sexual abuse. Those who experienced abuse felt that the only solution available was for them to "escape" from home. Most felt unable to discuss or plan their departure, either with family or friends or with any formal agency. None of the young people interviewed glamorised their experience of homelessness; they spoke of loneliness, deprivation and the occasional dangers of living roofless. They urged those responsible to build up services which would make it unnecessary for others to leave home, or to ensure that those who do will not become roofless. The advice to young people experiencing difficult family situations was invariably cautionary — they should never leave on impulse.

REX TAYLOR

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SIR ADRIAN CADBURY

Industrialist



Where would you go?
Vienna.

How would you get there?
By ferry and steam train, preferably in one of the Austro-Hungarian imperial coaches (with bath).

Where would you stay?
At the Hotel Sacher, home of the eponymous *Torte* and a place of pilgrimage for all devotees of sticky cakes.

Who would be your perfect companion?
I am open to offers.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Golf shoes: I am happy to borrow everything else needed for the game.

What medicines would accompany you?
A plentiful supply of Poulain liqueur chocolates, brimming with traditional monastic herbal remedies.

What would you have to eat?
Chocolate in all its forms, and *Apfelstrudel*.

What would you have to drink?
Coffee and hot chocolate, liberally topped with whipped cream.

Which books would you take to read?
Max und Moritz by Wilhelm Busch, my eldest son's favourite book when he was a child. *Cocoa: All About It*, an invaluable work of reference by my great-uncle Richard Cadbury under the pseudonym "Historicus". *The Devil's Lieutenant* by Maria Fagyas, about the military scandal of 1909 which set the stage for the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Baroness Thatcher's memoirs advertently left on the train.

What music would you listen to?
Beethoven, Mozart and assorted Strausses.

What would you watch on television?
There would be no time for television.

What film would you watch?
The Third Man.

Would you play any games or sport?
Golf at the magnificent course in the grounds of Schöborn, a small castle.

What luxury would you take?
A sculling boat for an outing on the Danube.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
The Last of England by Ford Madox Brown — one of the great Pre-Raphaelite paintings in the art gallery of my home city, Birmingham.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
Patience Wheatcroft, my least favoured journalist.

What three things would you leave behind?
Corporate governance, the moles in my garden, "failure of the preceding train" on my way to London.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Go to a Mozart opera at the Staatsoper. 2. Visit the National Bibliothek — an amazing library with something like 1.6 million books and manuscripts going back to the days of Charlemagne. 3. Dine in the best possible company in Austria at Schloss Weyerburg, the castle dating back to the 13th century belonging to the Count and Countess Schönborn-Buchheim.

Who would you send a postcard to?
My brother Dominic, with a first-hand report on the state of the Viennese chocolate market.

What souvenir would you bring home?
A horse from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna for my nieces.

What would you like to find when you got home?
All my post dealt with, dinner cooked for me and a welcome home party of grandchildren.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

● *Sir Adrian is chairman of the Cadbury Committee on Financial Aspects of Corporate Governance and former chairman of Cadbury Schweppes plc.*

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date appearing in the national broadsheet newspapers.

2/5 Granny from Hell: That is what the Glasgow *Herald* called Mary Whitehouse in its review of her autobiography, *Quite Contrary* (Sidgwick £14.99). But the remark was not entirely uncomplimentary.

"For years", Ian Bell wrote, "she has been the funniest thing on television... The Granny from Hell has left no innuendo unexplored in her crusade to find filth wherever it lurks." However, he found her book more of a "record of her greatest hits than a confession... God pops up everywhere in it, but humanity appears only as a slavering entity that cannot be trusted to watch a TV show." In *The Irish Times*, Anthea McTeirnan had another name for her: "Queen of the gut reaction." What was interesting about the autobiography, McTeirnan remarked, was that "in 30 years of campaigning the gut reaction has never been modified".

In *The Daily Telegraph*, W.F. Deedes was kinder. He found the book "a chamber of horrors" — but he saw her as a failure, rather than as a campaigner for wrong ideas, and said "she is less insensitive than she seems". In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Minette Marin found "something inspiring" about her but deplored her "bland, affirmative prose".

In *The Times*, Ian McIntyre was firmly on her side. He said she was "as tough as old boots", and he felt she had "an impressive list of battle honours in which she can claim a share — the Protection of Children Act, the Indecent Displays Act, the Video Recordings Act". But he admitted that as autobiography her book was "no great shakes".

Col cms: 121



What the papers said:

Derwent May's bookbuyer's guide

3/5 Verdi verdict: 200,000 people lined the streets of Milan for Verdi's funeral, and the latest biography of him, the American Mary Jane Phillips-Matz's *Verdi* (Oxford £30), is on much the same scale. "900 devoted pages... infinite detail and cumulative strength," Cyril Ehrlich wrote in *The Times*. "The warts", Ehrlich noted, were also extensively documented — Verdi did not wholly live up to the image he cultivated of "unworldly nobility".

"A monumental feat of scholarship," Michael White wrote in *The Independent on Sunday* — again observing that the book represented a "brutal assault on Verdi's legend".

In *The Daily Telegraph*, Charles Osborne was more sceptical: "It would not be unfair to say that what is new in this life is hardly significant, and what is significant is not entirely new." But he conceded that "the author reveals Verdi's complex character much more clearly than any previous author has done" and that "it is hard to imagine this biography ever being superseded".

Col cms: 83



Whitehouse into print

4/5 Amaryllis in the light: Eve Fleming, who was the mother of the writer Ian Fleming, also gave birth to a daughter by the painter Augustus John. *Amaryllis Fleming* (Sinclair-Stevenson £20) is the biography of that daughter; its author, Fergus Fleming, is a "sort of" nephew of Amaryllis, according to Nicholas Fleming, another "sort of" nephew who reviewed the book in *The Spectator*.

As for Amaryllis Fleming herself, she became a distinguished cellist, had a "tempestuous love life" according to Nicholas, and is still a professor at the Royal College of Music, though recently she had a stroke after which "the first thing she managed to utter was the F-word. Alas, they aren't building aunts like that any more," Nicholas concluded.

In *The Daily Telegraph*, Moira Shearer said it was "a biography filled with bizarre behaviour and over-life-sized characters". Example: Amaryllis learnt who her father was only when she was 23, and when she confronted him over lunch in Sloane Square, he said: "So you're my little girl, are you? Well, don't tell your mother." "A gossipy, behind-the-scenes romp through the Festival of Britain era and a fascinating insight into a top musician's career," Mark Archer said in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Col cms: 74

BIG DISCOUNTS ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

DESTINATION	RETURN FARES FROM
NEW YORK	£183
SYDNEY	£650
LOS ANGELES	£270
ROUND THE WORLD	£794
MIAMI	£223
TORONTO	£235
MELBOURNE	£700
PERTH	£664
JOHANNESBURG	£464
BOSTON	£223
SAN FRANCISCO	£270
VANCOUVER	£382
HONG KONG	£636
BANGKOK	£427
BRISBANE	£741
PARIS	£ 78
AMSTERDAM	£ 76
ATHENS	£158
NICE	£176
GENEVA	£152

SOUTHERN DEPARTURES

Check out the massive savings on scheduled return flights. Major airlines, dozens of destinations - your seat confirmed instantly. Book now at your nearest Pickfords Travel or Hogg Robinson Travel shop - over 520 nationwide. For telephone credit card bookings call our Holidaylines on 061-477 4855 or 0733 313888.

PRICESAVER AIRFARES only from

Pickfords Travel

AND

HOGG ROBINSON TRAVEL

IATA • ABTA No. 48226 / 32694 • ACCESS / VISA

Fares are subject to availability & specific travelling dates, and are not all for immediate departure.

with a wealth of surprises! ... to celebrate the New Year ... AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

DISH OF THE DAY



Chef: Jennifer Paterson, 70.

Born: London but conceived in China, to which she returned as a small child.

Profession: former resident cook at *The Spectator* for 15 years, now a cookery writer and broadcaster.

Present: Devotes her time to writing columns, producing books, enlivening Radio 4's *The Food Quiz* and dodging London traffic on her motorcycle.

Past: "I didn't learn to cook from my mother because she had a cook and never went into the kitchen. After the Second World War I lived with an uncle and aunt in Benghazi and I did the cooking because nobody else fancied it. No training, but I read everything Elizabeth David wrote." Later she cooked for an American couple, and began to produce private dinner parties. She took over the running of *The Spectator* kitchen, from which she branched into food writing.

Future: "Just carrying on."

Personal: Lives in Westminster, goes to Mass, drinks pink vodka. Laughs a lot.

Dish: First course for six or more which she calls "the mousse of the egg", from her book *Feast Days* (Grafton/Harper Collins, £5.99). "Most people won't guess what's in it unless you tell them."

FRANK JEFFERY

Northern lights

Candles illuminate a traditional Swedish Christmas, **Fiona Beckett** reports

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Anna Hegarty, of Anna's Place in north London, with a selection of the dishes that make up the traditional Christmas feast in Sweden

Although Christmas is still two weeks away, the celebrations have already started at Anna's Place, a small Swedish restaurant in north London. Beyond the steamed-up windows the candles are burning, the *glogg* is flowing and the smell of freshly baked ham fills the air.

Christmas is a special time for proprietor Anna Hegarty. "Christmas is the most magical holiday in Sweden because it comes when things are at their most bleak. If there isn't any snow to brighten things up, it's dark all day."

Traditionally, the preparations start early. "In the past, Sweden was a poor country so there weren't too many cheery things. Food was frugal and almost everything was salted and preserved," says Ms Hegarty, who grew up in Strömstrad on the west coast of Sweden. "Christmas was the time we all cut loose. Everything was hand-made, from the candles to the presents. The whole of Christmas was spent baking."

When Ms Hegarty was growing up, the preparation of the *lutfisk* — the dish of dried cod or ling that forms the centrepiece of the traditional Swedish Christmas meal — started when the days were still long. "The fish used to be hung outside on stakes to dry through the summer until they became as dry as cardboard," Ms Hegarty says. "In autumn they would be moved into big barns.

"At the beginning of December, they used to be stacked up in the shops and you'd go in and choose your fish. Although they all looked the same, it was a real performance. Eventually you'd go home proudly with your fish and say, 'Look at this beauty'.

"On December 9, the fish was cut up and soaked in a solution of soda, lime and water for a week, during which time it would swell up. Then you'd rinse it off and soak it in clear water in a big wooden barrel, changing the water every day until Christmas. Nowadays it's all much easier, as the *lutfisk* is vacuum-packed and deep frozen.

"To cook it, you put it in a pan and simmer it very slowly, otherwise the wretched thing would disintegrate. It was served with plain boiled potatoes and a thick white sauce with a bit of melted butter on top. Depending what part of Sweden you came from, you put a little allspice over the fish and sauce."

The fish gives off a strange smell of ammonia and Ms Hegarty admits it is an acquired taste. "I love it, but anyone who isn't Swedish can't bear it."

The Christmas celebrations proper start on December 23 — *Lilla Julafton*, or little Christmas Eve. "We used to sit round a candle, wrapping our presents and tasting everything," says Ms Hegarty.

"Our main meal was on the evening of December 24. By that time there would be candles everywhere and the house would be all warm and cosy and smelling of *glogg*. Everyone was dressed in all their finery and there was this lovely feeling of anticipation."

The festivities traditionally began with the *dupp e gritan*, literally "dip in the pot", a big bowl of the stock in which the Christmas ham and sausages were cooked, and into which everybody dunked pieces of black bread.

Then the smorgasbord, — a selection of cold dishes such as pickled herrings, liver paté, sausage and ham, followed by hot dishes such as meatballs and Jansson's temptation, a mouthwatering mixture of potatoes, onions, anchovies and cream. "The ham was special because it was such a luxury," says Ms Hegarty.

"The *lutfisk* came next — this wasn't a meal that you scoffed down in an hour. In the middle we used to get up for the *dans kring granen*, the dance around the tree. It always happened at 6pm."

The final part of the meal was the *ris a la malto*, a dish of rice with whipped cream. "There was always a bitter almond hidden in the pudding. If you had the almond, it meant that you were going to marry.

"All this eating was to eke out the time until Father Christmas's visit. Papa would say: 'I think I heard something, I'll just go out and look.' When Father Christmas appeared at the door and asked, 'Are there any nice children in there?' we never realised it was him.

"On Christmas Day we were all up again at 5am to go to *Julotta*, the Christmas morning service. We used to walk through the forest in the dark and there would be the church lit up with candles like a jewel in the night.

"We'd come back to more candles and the best breakfast ever. There was liver paté and sausages and cheese and all the things we'd been baking and making for the past month. The rest of the day was very low key. Christmas Day was when you looked at your presents, played games and dozed. It was the only day my father sat still."

Ms Hegarty will be laying on a Swedish Christmas meal for customers in her restaurant until December 22 — fortunately for non-Swedes without *lutfisk*, but with goose and red cabbage.

Here are her own recipes for *glogg* and Jansson's temptation.

Anna's glogg

4 bottles of full-bodied red wine
bottle of sweet red vermouth
¼ bottle of Angostura bitters
2tsp crushed cardamom pods
10-15 cloves
4 sticks of cinnamon
small piece of finely chopped fresh ginger
grated zest of an orange and a lemon
sugar to taste (approximately one coffee cup)

To serve

2oz/60g flaked almonds
2oz/60g raisins

Mix all the ingredients except the sugar together and heat slowly until almost boiling. Add sugar to taste and allow it to dissolve. It is important that the mixture should not boil. To serve, sprinkle a few flaked almonds and raisins in the bottom of a coffee cup and pour in the hot glogg. Serve it with a spoon so you can fish out all the goodies.

Jansson's temptation

(serves 4-6)

6 medium-sized potatoes
2 onions
2x3½oz/100g cans Swedish anchovy fillets (do not try to substitute any other type of canned anchovies)
¼ pt/150ml single cream
2-3tbsp breadcrumbs
2tbsp butter

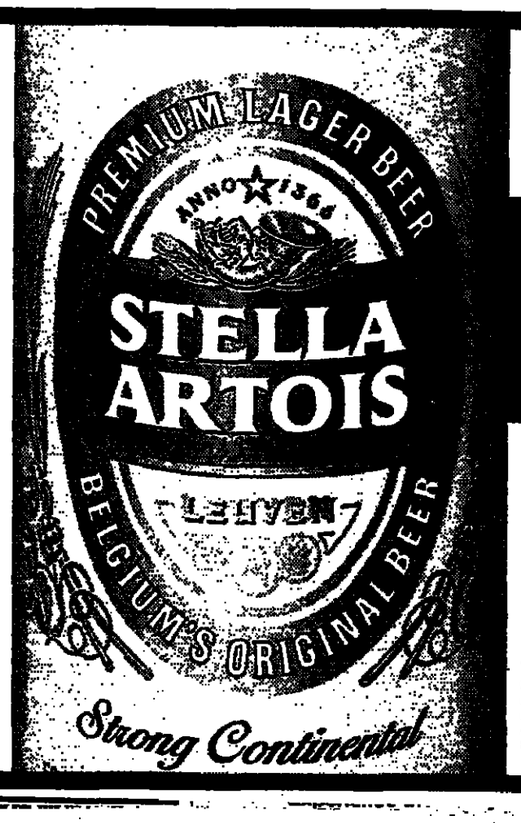
Peel the potatoes and cut them into fine matchsticks. Cut the onion into thin slices. Liberally butter an ovenproof dish. Place a layer of potatoes in the bottom, followed by a layer of onion and then a scattering of finely chopped anchovy fillets. Repeat the layers finishing with the potatoes. Smooth over the surface and pour over the cream and a little of the liquid from the can (not too much as it will make the dish too salty). Sprinkle with breadcrumbs, dot with butter and bake in a moderately hot oven (200C/400F) for about an hour.

● *Anna's Place is at 90 Mildmay Park, London N1 (071-249 9379). You can buy Swedish food from Ikea at Brent Park, Wembley (081-451 5566) and Croydon and from the Swedish Table, Unit 21, Park Royal Metro Centre, Britannia Way, Coronation Road, Park Royal, London NW10 7PR (081-965 4888), which runs a mail-order service.*

THRESHER WINE SHOP

WE'LL HELP YOU GET MORE OUT OF A BOTTLE OF WINE...

A TOTALLY STELLA OFFER



BUY 12 X 500ML CANS OF STELLA ARTOIS FOR JUST £9.99.

Normal single can price 99p.

This offer, which runs from 02.12.93 until 04.01.94 subject to availability and while stocks last, is available only at Thresher Wine Shops and is not available in any other Thresher outlets. No other discounts apply. Available to UK residents only, aged 18 and over. You'll find your nearest Thresher Wine Shop in Yellow Pages.

Cheddar cheats?

Cheddar is the most famous, most abused, most popular and most exploited cheese in the supermarket. A survey earlier this year suggested a mature farmhouse Cheddar was the most prized taste there was, even ahead of chocolate.

Finding a taste of authentic Cheddar this Christmas is another matter.

Any self-respecting new-wave cheesemaker would hardly dare call his or her cheese Cheddar any more, nor describe it as farmhouse. The image of farmhouse Cheddar production is of four breeze-block walls on a site the size of Wembley stadium. Today's Cheddar makers call their cheeses by other names. *The Specialist Cheesemakers' Guide to the Finest Cheeses of Britain and Ireland* (£2 from the Milk Marketing Board) reveals the new Cheddars as Tyn Grug from Dyfed, Tobermory Truckle from the Isle of Mull, Staffordshire Organic, Myrtle Grove, Llangloffan, Isle of Mull, Wellington, Gospel Green. Each can claim to be hand-made (or cheddared — where the curds are cut and stacked by hand) and then tended in the cellar, regularly turned by hand, tasted and allowed to mature, usually in cloth wrappings.

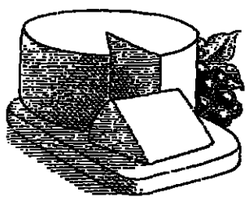
Over the past 30 years, supermarkets have turned a craft cottage industry into a novelty line. They did not destroy farmhouse cheese-making. The Ministry of Food did that with a draconian edict of 1940 favouring liquid milk over all other dairy products.

Supermarkets did collude with the large creameries to produce and sell cheese in neat little blocks wrapped in plastic, which now seem the norm. Cheddar is arguably robust enough to support this asphyxiation, but other territorial cheeses such as Wensleydale, Cheshire and Lancashire, ie, those that crumble, cannot.

"It is not a question of flavour or margin or what people want, but that a Lancashire crumbles when it is cut and doesn't fit the packaging," explains Juliet Harbutt, author of the cheesemakers' guide. "One solution is to make them less crumbly, but then these cheeses lose their individuality and character and become . . . like Cheddar." Sales of Lancashire, Cheshire and Wensleydale have collapsed since the war. Wensleydale teeters on the edge of extinction. The winner of this year's Cheshire Show for the best Cheshire is in her eighties, and who can predict what will happen next?

The demise of these cheeses has been Cheddar's fortune. Or at least the fortune of plants in Australia, Canada, Germany, and anywhere else that invested in a Cheddar-master system which takes in the milk (pasteurised) at one end and produces 18kg hunks at the other. Often, for hygiene reasons, these blocks are wrapped in plastic from the first. Any prospect of their developing a flavour is still-born. What they become is soapy. The only potential difference among the cheeses is maturity of strength, a one-dimensional asset at best. The glittering array of choice in most supermarkets means little or nothing.

FOOD SPY



Our finest cheese has been hijacked

Not so the price. The cheapest Cheddar currently costs about £1.50 a lb. Other Cheddars, produced by the same system, are sold for twice that amount. Of Sainsbury's 15 Cheddars, 14 are wrapped in neat little packs of 8oz or possibly 12oz, ranging from £1.49 a lb for English mild to £2.94 for Canadian. Prices are consistently £s for lbs and a helpful little label on the pack explains how it is all worked out (never mind that you probably would not taste the difference between them anymore than between a red or a blue Smartie). The exception is Sainbury's Mature English Cheddar, sold in little packs of 200g for what seems like a snip at £1.32. In case you have not got your pocket calculator to hand, that works out at £3 a lb. And no helpful label on the back says this is the most expensive Cheddar they have.

Cheddar accounts for 75 per cent of cheese sales. Safeway has already introduced, and Tesco soon will introduce, a grading system of 1-7 to indicate the strength of the cheese. The cynical explanation is that if you discover that you are a "Safeway number-three-grade-Cheddar person", you might be tempted to become a Safeway number-three-grade-Cambozola person. We are all destined to become inert: I am a number-two person, please send me the appropriate groceries for the week.

Bulk factory-made Cheddar is a useful cooking cheese and is cheaper than hand-made farmhouse. It is robust and can put up with packaging and handling. But it is not what Cheddar has been regarded as since Tudor times (that is, since it has been made with cow's rather than sheep's milk) — one of the finest cheeses in the world.

Before 1940, 513 farms were registered in the South West as making cheese, of which 333 were making Cheddar. After the war, there were 57 Cheddar makers in Britain. Today, there are eight listed in the cheesemakers' guide.

To its credit, this Christmas Waitrose is selling Keen's, an unpasteurised, cloth-bound Cheddar made in 60lb rounds and matured for a year into the sort of tasting notes that talk of licorice and nuts. It has a dry, intense sweetness so far removed from what we have come to think of as Cheddar that it deserves another name. Tesco, too, has started to label its Cheddars from Quicke's and Keen's. Whether these moves are signs of a serious change in direction remains to be seen.

In cheese more than other foods, it was the factor who mattered. He took and matured the cheeses from the farm and sold them on at their peak. It was a craft job, not just a brokerage. In cutting him or her out, the supermarkets have lost the ability to sell great cheeses — to their, and our, loss.

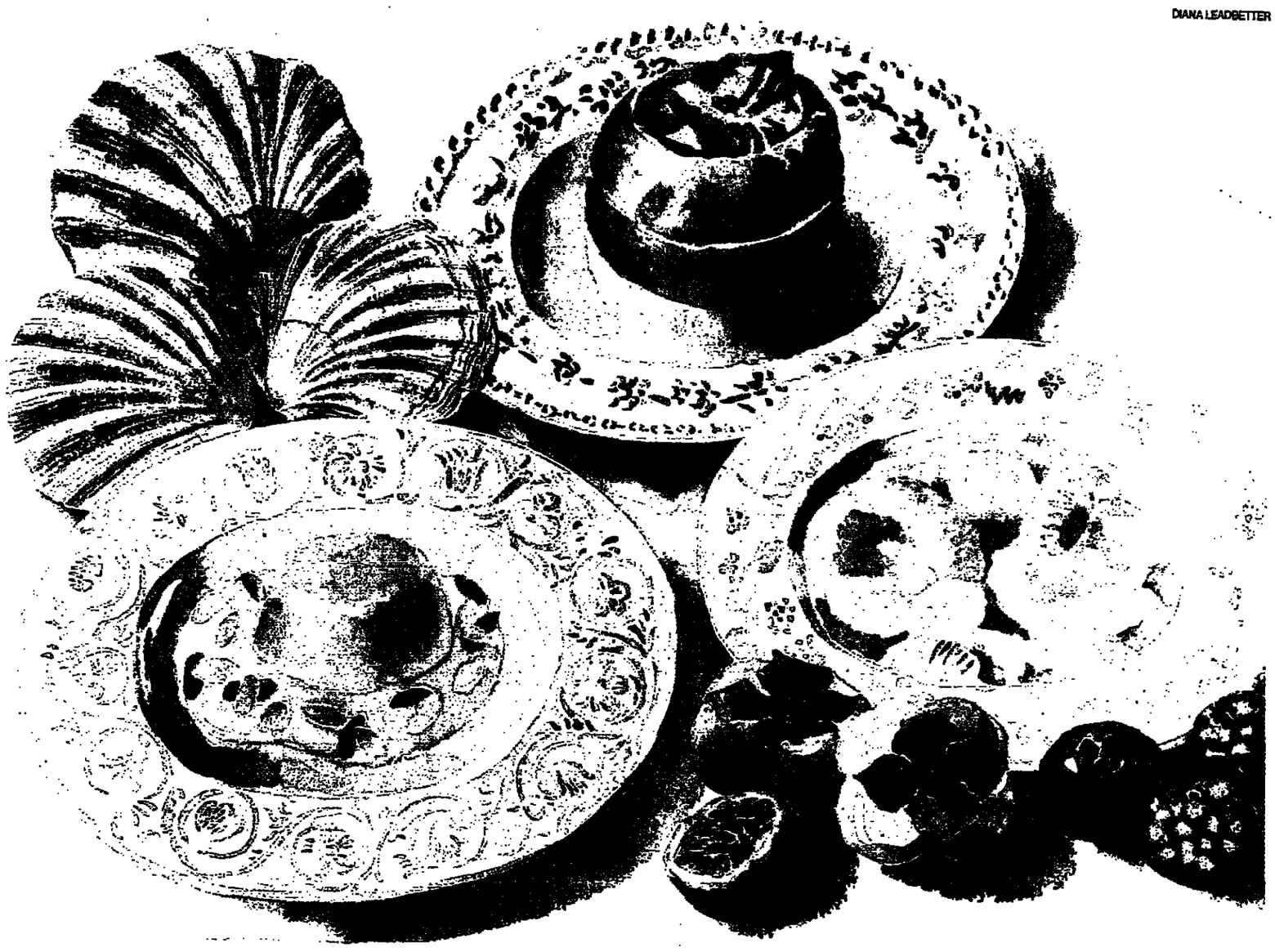
DREW SMITH



UNPEATED. UNPARALLELED.

Illusions of tasteful eating

Frances Bissell prepares dishes that deceive the eye, delight the mind and satisfy the palate



DIANA LEADBETTER

The TIMES COOK

A friend felt it was time for a change from the usual bird for Christmas and asked whether an Italian-style meal might be the answer. I couldn't agree more, and commend ideas for a *trompe-l'oeil* dinner, based on dishes that are not what they seem.

I helped to plan such a dinner a few weeks ago for a wine-maker friend, and the chefs at the Hyde Park Hotel, London, Giuseppe Sestito and Fabrizio Cadei, rose to the occasion and the food was splendid.

Imagine the meal: the starter looked like a trio of desserts — *panna cotta*, a traditional Piedmontese dessert, was represented by a delicate mousseline of sole; chocolate *bavaroise* by porcini, cooked and made into a firm purée and shaped into a quennelle; and the *cannoli* was a pastry horn filled with cooked baby squid.

For the pudding, pancakes cut to ravioli shapes were filled with cooked autumn berries, spilling out to make the sauce. To make the "truffles", white chocolate was melted and formed into a ball, and surrounded with dark chocolate, melted, allowed to cool and firm up, and then moulded into an appropriately knobbly shape. It grated beautifully on a traditional truffle grater.

In between these courses we ate a *cestina à sorpresa*, a lidded puff pastry case filled with creamy risotto over which real white truffles from Monferrato were grated, and "farmers coins", thin discs of golden grilled goat's cheese.

The main course was hare, which came as a rich, dark *civet*, served inside hollowed-out baked apples. This worked well, as it would with other gamey stews, and Bramleys make the ideal receptacle.

Food served in disguise has always been popular. In *The Satyricon*, Petronius describes in detail the fictional feast given by Trimalchio to his friends in classical Rome: quinces stuck with thorns to resemble sea urchins, roast pork carved into a model fish, a roasted pig stuffed with sausages, a hare dressed with wings to look like Pegasus, and a roasted wild sow filled with live birds.

We might think that the four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie were fictional, but there is a recipe for it in *Epulario*, the Italian cookery book published in 1516. The 1598 English translation is most detailed in its instructions to make a large pastry case, with a fist-size hole in the base, the pastry filled with bran or flour to keep its shape and then baked. The hole in the bottom is opened and the flour or bran discarded. A small pie is inserted in the larger pastry case, and the space around it filled with small, live songbirds; this to be done just before sending the pie to table where it is cut open and the birds fly out "to delight and pleasure shew of the company". Then, and a nice touch, "because they shall not be altogether mocked, you shall cut open the small pie".

We should, however, take heed of Yuan Mei, the cultured Chinese gourmet of the 18th-century Manchu Ching dynasty. He was not impressed by mere display. Do not, he admonished, "fuss with the natural state of the food just to show that you are a clever cook. Bird's nest is beautiful, why shape it into balls?"

Here are some more not too fussed-about-with recipes and ideas that retain enough visual ambiguity to be served at a *trompe-l'oeil* meal.

For starters, I suggest an orange *bavaroise* with a *crème anglaise*, in other words:

Mousseline of scallop roe with saffron sauce

(serves 6)

10-12 scallops with large roes
3 free-range eggs
¼ pt/140ml double cream
salt and freshly ground white pepper
1 shallot, finely chopped
3oz/85g unsalted butter
15fl oz/430ml fish stock
pinch of saffron threads, steeped in 2tbsp hot water

Garnish

toasted flaked almonds or pine kernels

Pre-heat the oven to 150C/300F, gas mark 2. If your oven is on the hot side, use a lower setting to avoid separation and bubbles. Rinse the scallops free of sand. Remove the thick pad of muscle and the roe of coral. Pick out five or six of the best shaped scallops, and set aside for another dish. Put the rest of the scallops, the roes, eggs, half the cream, and a little seasoning in a blender or food processor. Blend until smooth, then sieve.

Butter six small ramekins or decorative *bavaroise* moulds, and set them in a roasting tin containing a little water. Fill the ramekins almost to the top with the scallop mixture. Place in the middle of the oven, and cook for 25 minutes: the exact cooking time depends on the depth of the mixture — knife point inserted in the centre will come out clean when the mousseline is cooked.

To prepare the sauce, fry the shallot in half the butter until soft, but not brown. Add the fish stock and boil to reduce by a third. Stir in the saffron and remaining cream, and cook for five minutes. Strain and keep the sauce warm. Turn the mousselines out on to heated individual serving plates, mop up any liquid with a paper towel, and surround each with a few spoonfuls of sauce and some toasted nuts.

Apple is next, filled with a hare stew, which can be made a day or so in advance. Pheasant or venison can be substituted. To make the dish even more elaborate, you could wrap each cooked, filled apple in puff pastry and bake it.

Wild apples

(serves 6)

6 Bramley apples of even size

Bake the apples in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for about 30-40 minutes. The apples should be just tender, but not collapsing. Remove a slice from the top of each apple, hollow out and, when cool enough to handle, spoon in the hare stew. Cover each with the "lid" and return to the oven for ten-15 minutes.

The hare

1½ lb/680g hare meat, off the bone
1tsp olive oil
2 onions, peeled and sliced
½ pt/280ml game stock
1tbsp dry red wine, balsamic or sherry vinegar
1oz/30g seedless raisins
1oz/30g pine kernels or walnuts
2 squares (about ⅓ oz/10g) of dark chocolate with high cocoa content
seasoning

Trim the hare of any sinews and gristle, and cut the meat into small, even-sized pieces. Fry the meat quickly in the oil until browned all over. Put it in a heavy oven-proof casserole. Lightly brown the onions and pour the stock over them. Boil until it is slightly reduced, scraping up any bits stuck to the pan. Add the wine vinegar, raisins, nuts and chocolate. Stir until the chocolate has melted, and then pour on the meat. Cook in a low oven, 170C/325F, gas mark 3, for 40-50 minutes. Season to taste.

As with the starters, the pudding course lends itself well to *trompe-l'oeil* dishes, and Italian food with its distinctive shapes is particularly appropriate. A thick slice of *pandoro*, golden sponge cake, toasted under the grill looks very like a slab of grilled polenta; a sauce of ground and chopped walnuts mixed with honey and melted chocolate has something of the same colour and texture as a wild mushroom sauce.

Among the many good things on Jean-Christophe Novelli's menu at the Four Seasons restaurant in London I had a pudding which was the perfect *trompe-l'oeil*, although it was not trying to be: a thin, speckled, leaf-pattern lasagna with sliced roasted figs and finely chopped mint.

Here is my own favourite *trompe-l'oeil* pudding:

"Gnocchi with yellow tomato sauce"

(serves 6)

Commercial white marzipan does not work in this recipe. Its only ingredients are sugar, ground almonds and glucose syrup. As soon as I put the gnocchi shapes into simmering water, the obvious happened: the sugar and glucose dissolved and nothing was left to hold the almond together.

Make some marzipan by mixing into two free-range egg whites equal quantities of ground almonds and icing sugar, being slightly more generous with the almonds. Work the mixture to a firm but malleable paste and break off pieces about the size of the joint of your index finger. Shape into an oval, roll it down the tines of a fork and make a depression in it with your thumb. The ridges and depression are to hold the sauce. Make this by putting in the blender golden fruit, such as sieved passion fruit, a peeled and chopped sharon fruit or ripe persimmon pulp, hulled physallis and a little orange juice. Blend, sieve and heat.

Poach, do not boil, the gnocchi in milk and water, for barely a minute, remove with a slotted spoon and serve on warm plates with the sauce, and if you like, hand round grated white chocolate to represent Parmesan.

RESTAURANT WATCH

ROCKY RISE
Benihana
77 King's Road, London SW3
(071-376 7799)
Rocky Aoki, Olympic wrestler, balloonist and billionaire, today adds a second London Benihana to 88 others he already has in the Americas and Asia. He has spent £2.3 million on this one. Japanese-American cooking by knife-flailing chefs at *hibachi* tables. Reckon up to £40 a head. Open noon-3pm and 6pm-midnight (11pm Sundays).

COME AND GET IT
Le Carapace
118 Heath Street, London NW3
(071-435 5773)
Carapace is breaking the mould in drumming up custom, offering a free chauffeur service to and from home for customers living within a five-mile radius. Those arriving before 6.30pm and vacating the table by 8pm get the usual menus of Provençal food at half price (£13.80), and those under 12 or over 60 pay half price *à la carte*. And collecting three Carapace bills gets a fourth meal free. Four-course Sunday lunch, £13.80. Open seven evenings a week, 5.30-11pm; Sunday lunch, noon-3.30pm.

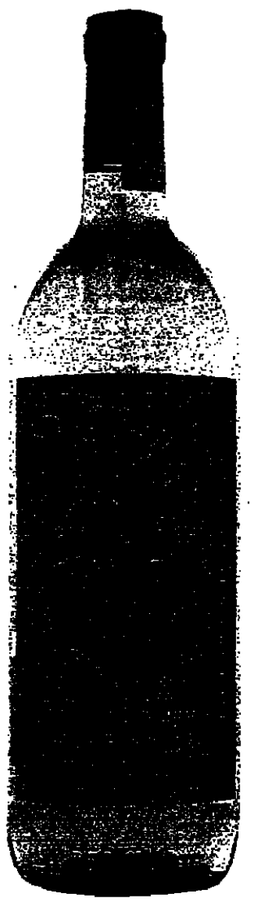
CARIBBEAN AIR
Brixtonian Backayard
4 Neals Yard, Covent Garden, London WC2
(071-240 2769)
There is a breath of fresh air in this non-smoking restaurant above the Rhum Shop roti bar, which sells vintage rums and where smoking is allowed. In the smoke-free dining-room, two courses cost £17.95 and three £22.45, including service. Open 12.30-3pm (except Sunday) and 7-11pm seven days a week.

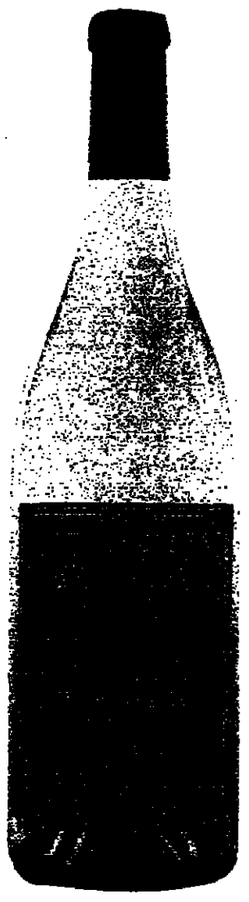
BIRDIE MENUS
Manor Restaurant
Foxhills Golf Club, Ottershaw, Surrey
(0932-872050)
Mark Payne, the chef here, trained at Sharrow Bay and Chez Nico, and the restaurant pulls in quite a few drivers who are not golf-club members. Three-course set lunches cost £15.50 (buffet on Sundays), and dinners £16.50 (£19.50 including half bottle of house wine). Open Tuesday to Saturday, 12.30-2.30pm and 7.30-10pm. Sundays lunch only; closed Mondays.

ROBIN YOUNG

Stocking up for a white Christmas

Jane MacQuitty returns to the Weekend section with a seasonal guide to festive white wines





All you want for Christmas are good wines at keen prices that suit festive food and that friends and family alike will enjoy. Mission impossible? Particularly as you have not even started yet? Relax. The high street is still awash with the best yule-tide bottles. And over the next few weeks, I will let you know which wines to buy at the last minute and which to avoid.

The key to stress-free and financially responsible Christmas drinking is to lay in a case — two if you can afford it — of a decent, headache-free, all-purpose, cheap, festive party white. The best bets this season include Gateway's fresh Castillo Imperial, a white Galician table wine with simple, appley, lemony Spanish fruit, which is knocked down to £1.79 from £2.45 until January 4.

Equally tempting to palate and pocket is Majestic Wine Warehouse's 1992 Le Saint Cricq, Blanc de Blancs from La Mancha, another Spanish white but this time with an elegant, sunny, perfumed style for £1.99.

Devotees of Bulgarian wines who want a touch of sweetness should head as usual for the grapey, raisiny Slaviantzi Muskat and Ugni Blanc Bulgarian Country Wine (Asda £2.49, The Victoria Wine Company £2.95, Waitrose and Majestic £2.69).

With the cheapies taken care of, move on to superior festive whites that at £3 or more will not ruin your Christmas either. Sainsbury's has just reduced the price of its zesty, lime-scented Torrontes Argentinian Dry White from £3.49 to £2.99 until January 2. The same price buys Hugh Ryman's fuller, pineappley 1992 Moldova Hincesti Chardonnay, still Eastern Europe's best inexpensive white, whose varietal finesse shines through (Sainsbury's, Oddbins and Majestic, £2.99).

I am also still very taken with the Cape's 1993 Goiya Kgeisje, a verdant, citrusy, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay blend with a striking ostrich label, a giveaway at £3.29 from Tesco. Australia's top drop at this level is still the delicious lemony-buttery 1992 Lindemans Cawarra Colombard-Chardonnay, redolent of cinammon and spices (Oddbins £3.49).

Moving on to fancier festive prices, if you want a simple life, it pays to divide your white wine budget between sauvignon or sauvignon-style wines, best with first courses and fish, and fuller chardonnay-based whites that are usually happiest with meat dishes and occasionally even the festive bird. My vote this year for the most magnificent sauvignon yet goes to the Vacheron family's gorgeous, thrilling 1992 Sancerre, Les Roches (Majestic and Unwins £8.99), whose intense, mouthwatering, flowering currant and gooseberry fruit is a must.

Look out too for the Kiwi equivalent, the very impressive 1993 Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc, a very ripe, gooseberry and whitecurrant-layered herbaceous wine that gives Cloudy Bay competition (Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £6.99, Tesco £7.99).

If you and your family find the sauvignon grape too strident — and plenty of wine merchants' palates do too — then try the softer chenin blanc, whose stronghold is the Loire but which pops up elsewhere in the world too. With its wonderful lemon, lime and grapefruit flavours, the 1993 Moondah Brook Chenin Blanc from Houghton, the BRL Hardy stronghold in the Swan Valley, Western Australia, makes a splendid Christmas Day white and works well as an aperitif and first-course bottle but, because of its sunny fruit, not with the bird (Sainsbury's £4.95).

Instead, try the 1992 Domaine des Aubuisières Vouvray Sec from the Loire, whose classy, steely, appley style and fine, firm, waxy fruit makes a refreshing Christmas change. You can taste it free today from 2pm to 5pm at Oddbins, as well as other festive whites, and qualify for a 10 per cent discount if you buy an unmixed case (Oddbins £6.99 a bottle).

With so many Christmas chardonnays to choose from, it is hard not to become confused. Good bottles under £5 to take home include the 1992 Goundrey Langton Chardonnay from Mt Barker in Western Australia. This recently stocked special offer (£4.99) from Asda has heaps of ripe, buttery, cinammon scented Australian fruit with a dash more elegance than most Aussie chardonnays at this price because of its cooler Mt Barker provenance.

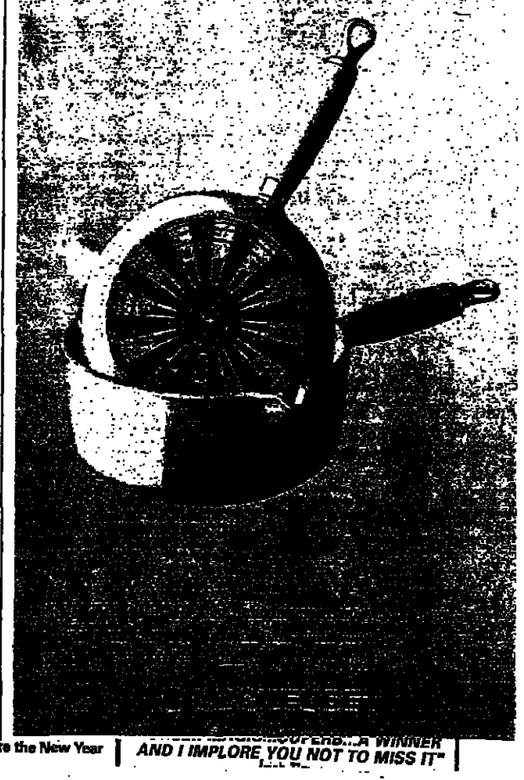
The best bet from France in this price range is the nutty-oaky 1992 Charles de France Chardonnay de Bourgogne, Jean-Claude Boisset, reduced by 30p to £4.69 at The Victoria Wine Company until January 5.

If you want a chardonnay name, splash out £1 more on the very fine, nutty, leafy 1992 Chablis, La Chablisienne whose oaky-appley elegance costs just £5.49, reduced from £5.99, until January 5 at Victoria Wine. Here's to a white Christmas.

BEST BUYS

- **Castillo Imperial Blanco:** *Gateway £1.79 until Jan 4.*
- **Torrontes Argentinian Dry White:** *Sainsbury's £2.99 until Jan 2.*
- **1993 Goiya Kgeisje Sauvignon and Chardonnay:** *Tesco £3.29.*
- **1993 Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc:** *Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, £6.99, Tesco £7.99.*
- **1992 Domaine des Aubuisières Vouvray Sec:** *Oddbins £6.99.*
- **1992 Goundrey Langton Chardonnay:** *Asda £4.99.*
- **1992 Chablis, La Chablisienne:** *Victoria Wine, £5.49 until Jan 5.*

A dish that doesn't scratch ceramic hobs. (What a bunch of smoothies we French are.)



...AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

...with a wealth of surprises!

...many surprises to celebrate the New Year

*Items to be danced

Shock tactics to conquer cruelty

Widget Finn reports on the wide-ranging work of the RSPCA, Britain's best-known charity dedicated to animal welfare

JOHN MANNING



Ian Gough, an RSPCA inspector in south London, with new-born kittens; but not all of his call-outs have a happy ending

A full-page photograph of dead dogs does not fit the cosy image of animal charities, nor do advertisements highlighting the shipment of lambs, with echoes of the wartime transportation of Jews. But harrowing pictures and controversial messages are part of the RSPCA's hard-hitting approach in its fight against cruelty to animals.

The charity, founded in 1824, spends £1 million a year on advertising. Its campaigns have attracted protest, controversy and even criticism by the Advertising Standards Authority. This means that they are having the desired effect, says Jerry Lloyd, the RSPCA's campaign director.

"We use graphic advertisements to bring home the message that cruelty to animals is shocking," he says. "We need to make the public aware of issues such as the export of animals for slaughter, or the misleading labels on eggs from battery hens."

The RSPCA is Britain's best-known and eleventh largest charity, with an annual income of £27 million. Its inspectorate is one of the largest non-governmental investigation agencies in the country. Education, research and international emergency aid are less familiar aspects of the charity's work.

The society receives more than a million phone calls each year from members of the public reporting cases of cruelty or distress. Three hundred inspectors provide cover 24 hours a day for animals in need. They undergo a rigorous seven-month residential training course which covers legal proceedings, dog handling, mountain rescue and animal welfare.

Checking on pet shops and horse-riding establishments, following up reports of neglected animals or organised dog fights and rescuing frightened creatures from tight spots are all in a day's work. Recently, Ian Gough, an RSPCA inspector in the south London area, received a complaint from an agitated woman about the ill-treatment of a dancing bear in a travelling show in Sidcup, Kent. "It was a very hot day and I was told that the bear had no drink or shelter and was kept on a tight chain," Mr Gough says. "When I went to see, I found an overheated man in a bear costume."

Not all Mr Gough's call-outs have a happy ending. Last year the RSPCA secured 3,003 convictions against people who have been cruel to animals, as well as 40 prison sentences and seven cases of juvenile offenders.

The objectives of the charity since its foundation have been to prevent cruelty and promote kindness to animals. One of the ways to achieve these aims is through education, according to Peter Davies, the director-general. "An informed public is the best insurance against cruelty," he says. "The society allocates a significant budget to education services, and our officers visit schools, teaching centres and colleges to get the message across."

The Animal Action Club for young people has 70,000 members. They can take part in various activities, such as residential workshops, which cover a range of issues including reptile rescues, wildlife filming and zoo animals. In East Sussex, the RSPCA's Malldams Wood Wildlife Sanctuary, set in a 24-hectare wood, provides practical learning for children and adults. Study subjects include seashore life and intensive farming, and all new police officers in Kent now attend the centre for a course on wildlife and the law.

The RSPCA has considerable veterinary expertise, providing technical support for the society's political campaigning for legislation on animal welfare. In 1991, the government, with RSPCA support, passed an amendment to the law which now prevents the docking of dogs' tails for cosmetic purposes. But the society publicly expresses concern over other issues, such as the inflexibility of the Dangerous Dogs Act and the penalties for owners of straying dogs.

Wild animals, from badgers to dolphins, benefit from the vigilance of RSPCA inspectors, and specialist centres provide practical care. More than 1,000 animals were treated at the new Norfolk Wildlife Hospital in its first six months.

Much of the money for the society's wide-ranging activities is raised through a network of 207 supporters' branches. These groups of volunteers not only provide money, but also draw attention to animal welfare issues.

● *RSPCA, 0403 264180.*

PETER TREVNOR



A national organisation is devoted to hedgehog welfare

Animal needs bring out the best in Britons

There are more than 1,000 charities, some receiving up to £33 million a year

A NATION'S degree of civilisation, said Mahatma Gandhi, can be measured by the way it treats its animals, *Widget Finn writes.* In which case the British, with more than 1,000 registered charities devoted to animal welfare, must be leading the field.

The RSPCA, the PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) and the Blue Cross Animals' Hospital are among the top ten fund-raising animal charities, with annual incomes of between £3-£33 million.

Donkeys, dogs and cats lead the popularity stakes when it comes to tugging the charitable heart-strings, while hedgehogs in distress arouse instant sympathy. Shropshire County Council was recently persuaded to install escape ramps for hedgehogs in cattle grids, and the overwhelming response to the publicity led to the founding of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

There are charities which look after the health of animals, their rescue and rehabilitation, others which campaign for legislation to improve their welfare, or are involved in research, education and the relationship between animals and humans. The RSPCA, Blue Cross and PDSA provide what is in effect a National Health Service for animals, giving veterinary treatment for pets whose owners cannot afford private fees.

Charities such as the Humane Slaughter Association work to improve the conditions of animals rather than campaigning for vegetarianism. The Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (Frame) seeks alternative techniques to advance medical knowledge, backed by companies who have learnt the public-relations cost of using animals for research.

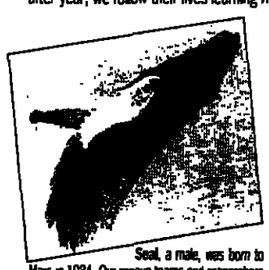
THE lives of animals and humans are inextricably linked. Animals provide food, livelihood, mobility and companionship. Children learn responsibility through looking after their pets, says Christina Thomas, secretary of the British Veterinary Association's Animal Welfare Foundation. "Teaching kindness to animals improves people's attitudes to one another," she adds. "And campaigning for their improved conditions reminds us that we must all be responsible citizens."

● *PDSA, 0952 290999; Blue Cross Animals' Hospital, 071-930 0210; Humane Slaughter Association, 0707 59046; British Hedgehog Preservation Society, 0584 890287; Frame, 0602 584740.*

ADOPT A HUMPBACK WHALE

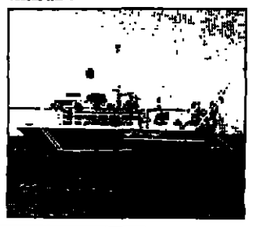
FOR YOURSELF OR AS A SUPER GIFT

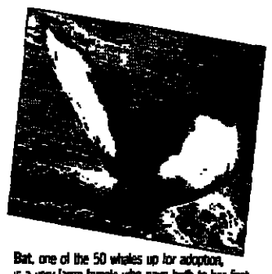
Adopting a Humpback Whale from the Whale Adoption Project means you or a loved one will get to know an individual humpback whale. And you will be joining a hands-on rescue programme that directly protects your whale. The Whale Adoption Project's humpback whales migrate between Canada and the Caribbean. Scientists have identified and named them all. Year after year, we follow their lives learning more about them and saving them from harm.



Seal, a male, was born to Mars in 1984. Our rescue teams and researchers have followed him through New England waters and on the vast breeding grounds off the Dominican Republic. Seal got his name from a seal-shaped mark on his tail.

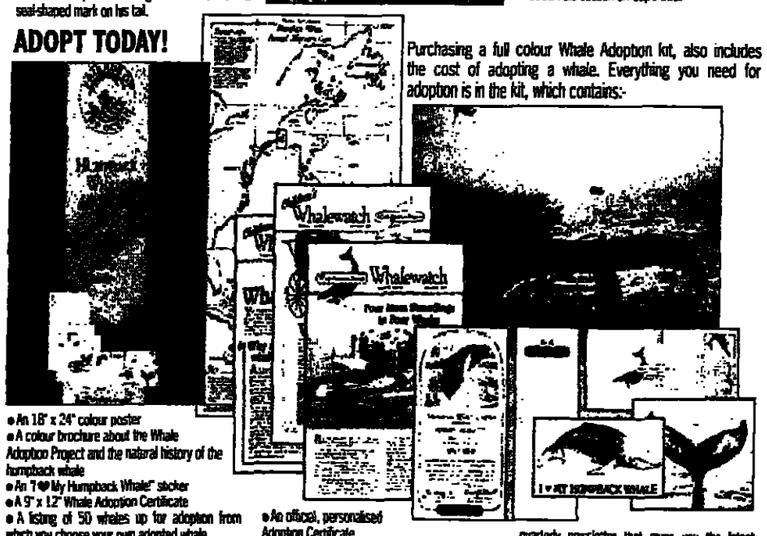
The crew of our rescue and research vessel, RV Navaho, makes regular patrols every week and is on emergency alert 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – as is our 400-strong volunteer whale rescue team.





Bat, one of the 50 whales up for adoption, is a very large female who gave birth to her first calf, Jagger, in 1990. We saw her early in the 1992 field season off Cape Cod.

ADOPT TODAY!



Purchasing a full colour Whale Adoption kit, also includes the cost of adopting a whale. Everything you need for adoption is in the kit, which contains:-

- An 18" x 24" colour poster
- A colour brochure about the Whale Adoption Project and the natural history of the humpback whale
- An "I ♥ My Humpback Whale!" sticker
- A 9" x 12" Whale Adoption Certificate
- A listing of 50 whales up for adoption from which you choose your own adopted whale.

The Kit also contains one Whale Adoption Certificate Registration card. Send in your registration card filled out with your name, address, and the name of the whale you've chosen to adopt and you will then receive:

- An official, personalised Adoption Certificate
- A 5" x 7" black and white photo of your whale
- A biography of your whale
- A colour 11" x 17" whale calendar and migration map
- A year's subscription to Whalewatch, our quarterly newsletter that gives you the latest news about your whale and other marine mammal issues (a children's version is available, too – a super gift.)
- An honorary First Mate card good for discounts on wildlife tours and whale watching trips

Please supply ____ Humpback Whale Adoption Kit(s) at £15 each. This fee also includes the cost of adopting a whale. (Overseas orders please add £3 per kit for shipping) I enclose a cheque/PO for £ ____

Tick the appropriate box:

☐ I would like a Humpback Whale Adoption Kit for myself. (Fill in first column only)

☐ I would like a Kit for myself and to send one or more as gifts. (Fill in both columns)

☐ This order is for a gift only (Fill in both columns)

☐ I don't want to adopt a whale now, but please send me an information pack.

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) ____

Address ____

Postcode ____ Telephone ____

Recipient's Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) ____

Recipient's Address ____

Postcode ____ Telephone ____

For extra gifts, attach a separate sheet of paper with all the names and addresses in BLOCK CAPITALS.

☐ I enclose a cheque/PO. ☐ Please debit my Visa/Mastercard No. ____ Cardholder's Name ____

Signature ____ Card Expiry Date ____

Send coupon with cheque or postal order for International Money Order from overseas, for £15 for each kit ordered. This fee also includes the cost of adopting a whale. Cheques & POs crossed and made payable to Whale Adoption Project re: INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE COALITION. Whale Adoption Project, Dept TT P.O. Box 73, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4EY. Telephone: 0342-825482.

JOIN THE PROGRAMME THAT DIRECTLY PROTECTS YOUR ADOPTED WHALE

CHARITIES

TETTENHALL HORSE SANCTUARY
JENNY WALKER LANE WOLVERHAMPTON WV6 7HB
REGISTERED CHARITY SINCE 1978
HUMBLE RESCUERS OF OVER 700 IN CARE
SERVING OVER 1000 HORSES LIVING ON CHAINS
ANSWERING OVER 5000 TELEPHONE CALLS YEARLY FOR HELP AND MERCY
WORKING TO CORRECT *THE* WORST AREA IN ENGLAND.

NBI
Reg Charity 212458
YOUR WILL
- a legacy or donation can help so many elderly people who have given so much.
... and are now in need of help themselves – with nursing home fees or convalescence and in many other ways. Please ask the *NBI* to show you how you can set up a legacy, a covenanted subscription, or please send a donation to: The Secretary, The National Benevolent Institution (T), 61 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PG.

The Animal Health Trust
1942 · 1992 50th ANNIVERSARY
For over 50 years the Animal Health Trust has been improving the diagnosis of the distressing and painful diseases and injuries which afflict all animals. If you would like to help, send your donation to:
Johnny Fountain, The Animal Health Trust, PO Box 5, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7DW
Registered charity no 209642

How near we are to the cure... ...depends on you.
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ 071-405 0101
Voluntary Branches throughout Britain

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

ADA COLE MEMORIAL STABLES
(Reg. charity 210393) excellent range cards & gifts, incl. "She heard their cry" by Joyce Rudden, just out - a fascinating life history of truly remarkable Ada Cole. In hard back £12.50; Imp covers £8.50; plus £1.50 p&p. A must for all animal lovers. Broadlands, Broadley Common, Waltham Abbey. EN9 2DH
(099 289) 2133

BADGER CRUSADE
KEEPING ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE BADGER BAITERS
Help us channel funds to workers in the front line throughout the UK. They need mobile phones, night vision equipment and anti alarms.
Please join our crusade by sending a cheque/postal order or credit card number and details to:
PEOPLES TRUST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES, FREEPOST (GJ/116), GODALMING, SURREY GU7 3BR.
Tel: (0483) 424848
Reg Charity No. 274206.

BRITISH HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION SOCIETY
We need your help however large or small to make sure that when a hedgehog are brought into us injured they get the best possible care, as well as educating the public to the plight of this vulnerable little animal both in the wild as well as in your garden.
Please send donations to: BHPS, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire. SY8 3LQ or call 0584 890287



Joseph has been deaf and blind for over 50 years. He will tell you that, distressing as this is, it's not the end of the world.
However, in common with every deaf-blind person, he could not get by without some help from time to time.
Will you help the National Deaf-Blind League to help him and his deaf-blind friends over some of the hurdles?
He is sorry there is very little he can do for you in return.
NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND LEAGUE 18 Rainbow Court Paston Ridings PETERBOROUGH PE4 7UP Tel. (01733) 573811
Registered Charity 802976

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION YOU CAN KEEP
Make your 1st financial transaction of the New Year a Charitable One
THE TIMES 1ST AID
The World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief 1st AID Appeal
Donations can be made by phoning the credit card hotline on 0892 549 042
Cheques/postal orders payable to 1st AID Appeal, c/o CAF, Kingscl, TN 2257, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3SR

J.A.W.S
Help us to care for unwanted pets in Japan, treated like toys then thrown out in their hundreds every year
Send a donation to or join:
Japan Animal Welfare Society,
RMC House, Townsend Road, London SW6 2RZ
(Tel) 071 736 9306
(Reg charity no. 244534)

ChurchArmy
Independents Road, Blackheath, London SE3 9LG
Telephone: 081-318 1226
Fax: 081-318 5258
HELP US TO SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS STORY BY SHOWING CARE FOR-
☐ THE ELDERLY
☐ THE HOMELESS
☐ THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THE NEW BORN BABE
JOY TO THE WORLD



Another pathetic case waiting outside the Brooke Hospital

How you can help the Brooke Hospital for Animals

This tragic sight is not uncommon in the Middle East today. Each week the Brooke Hospital for Animals gives free treatment to thousands of suffering animals, and saves many more from years of crippling work.

For £25 we can provide up to 5 days of life-saving hospital care. Just £2 is enough for an all-important preventative treatment.

Please send what you can by cheque or credit card to: Richard Searight, Brooke Hospital for Animals, Dept T33, Broadmead House, 21 Panton St., London SW1Y 4DR and fill in the coupon below. Or call us on 071-930 0210.

I will help the Brooke Hospital by donating £ ____
Visa or Access ____
Please make cheques payable to the Brooke Hospital for Animals
NAME: Mr/Mrs/Miss ____
ADDRESS ____
POSTCODE ____ T33

They depend on us - we depend on you
(Charity No 207869)

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD COUNCIL
4C SHOPS NOW OPEN
London Shops:
23, Piccadilly, London, W1. Mon - Sat. 9.30 - 6.30
5, Cheapside, EC3. nr St Pauls Cathedral, Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00.
Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate EC3 Mon - Fri. 9.30 - 5.30
19 Artillery Row - Victoria SW1 Mon - Sat. 10 - 6.00
7 Knights Arcade, Knightsbridge, SW3. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00
Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, WC2 Mon - Fri. 9.30 -5.30.
5 Royal Exchange, Cornhill, EC2 Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00.
115 Baker Street, London W1. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00.
Regional Shops:
17 St George's Walk, Croydon, Surrey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00.
Pavilions Shopping Centre, Birmingham, Mon - Sat. 9.30 - 6.00
33 Donegal Place, Belfast. Mon - Sat. 9.30 - 5.30.
7 Queen Square, Crawley, Surrey. Mon - Sat. 9.30 - 6.00
Wholly run by and for charities
82p in every £1 returned to the charities
Largest selection of Charity Cards
90 Charities - Over 500 designs on Sale
FOR DETAILS OF ADDITIONAL SHOPS IN LONDON AND KEY REGIONAL CITIES Phone 071 336 7478

Experience the luxury of choice

هكذا من الأصل

Present perfect

Joseph Connolly shows how the idle or busy man can do all his Christmas shopping in one London afternoon

The idle man and the busy man have similar problems, and never more so than at Christmas, when the former is less inclined than usual to spend time shopping, and the latter has even less of it on his hands. Note that for the purposes of this article, however, neither must be mean with anything *but* time, and that a certain degree of solvency is assumed — not out-and-out, money-is-no-object, damn-the-expense wealth, you understand, just an easy willingness to part with a fair amount of the folding stuff in return for the joy on the faces of friends and family at this oh-so-special time of year.

The shopping trip is to take the form of a stroll around some of the better streets of London, each of which, rather conveniently, connects. Our gifts will be a blend of the stoutly decent and the amusing — "amusing" in the classier shops tends to come a good deal cheaper than po-faced, but I stress *amusing*. Our choices must never be risible, they should reflect the wit and discernment of the buyer.

We start the trip at around noon, at Rowley's restaurant in Jermyn Street. There are only two choices of meal here (we are going to have to make quite enough decisions later on), the surroundings are congenial to thought, and the all-in-price of £15.95 entitles you to as many *frites* as you can eat.

Now, *you* know who you are buying for — just slightly removed men, women and children; your nearest and dearest will by now have made plain what they want by means of subtle hints, or by tattooing the information on to your forehead, and as one's wife is very different from *your* wife, you are on your own on this one (but see what not to buy, right).

Opposite Rowley's is Hawes & Curtis, where, during December, you can buy beautiful men's shirts for £28 to £39 each: good quality and some pretty ritzy patterns, too. Further down the road is the elegant, new Thomas Pink shop — again, great value shirts — and the estimable Hilditch & Key (superb double-cuffed women's shirts at £69.50, ready to wrap in a glassine box, and a great selection of those little silk-knot cufflinks). These go down very well.

Paxton & Whitfield is here, too: great cheese, but I have never been happy with the concept of giving a piece of cheese for Christmas, even if it comes in a shiny black jar. Dunhill is not to be missed: it has wonderful ties covered with old pipes (politically incorrect, and therefore irresistible) at £49. Other wonderful ties and scarves are to be had at Turnbull & Asser and Harvie & Hudson, and you just might know the right person for the luxurious bath oils from Czech & Speake — but the recipient's bathroom must measure up to the intimidatingly elegant glass and chrome decanters. Fortnum & Mason is synonymous with Christmas, and many people, Americans especially, are impressed with anything bearing the name. A handsome drum of biscuits depicting the store's façade is only £2.50, while a tin full of all the biscuits one could decently require comes in at £6.95. For children, a miniature F&M wicker hamper, filled with miniature delights, is a winner at £15. Hatchard's, next door, for books: no good buying Margaret Thatcher or Delia Smith, people either have them or else they won't thank you. Go for Martin Handford's *Where's Wally in Hollywood?* (Walker, £8.99) for the little ones, and Posy Simmonds's *Mustn't Grumble* (Cape, £9.99) for everyone else.

Nip across Piccadilly to the Burlington Arcade. N. Peal for delicious cashmere, but the star this year is the new Montblanc boutique: best buy is its famous Meisterstück ballpoint elegantly presented in a large, decorated tin at only £79. Who wouldn't like that?

Turn left at the top of the arcade and you are in Bond Street: 1½lb of chocolates at Charbonnel et Walker come in a white circular box with any message spelt out in lettered, foil-wrapped chunks of heaven — *any* message, for just £33. In many shops in Bond Street, you just *can't* be "amusing": all the stuff in Versace is a laugh but the prices sober you like a douche; in Gucci, I *suppose* you can be amusing, but it's a bit Eighties amusing: Cartier will wipe the smile off anyone's face.

Tiffany is affordable fun: what about a sterling silver miniature comb with a pink or a blue tassle? Meant for a christening present for the hairless, but quite witty for some poor devil newly receding, or proud of his moustache. Much in Asprey, a few doors along, is truly bizarre; just about anything you can think of covered in and studded with things you couldn't contemplate: anyone hopeless you know might like a red leather plaque reading "Frequently Wrong, But Never In Doubt" (£45).

Now we turn right into Conduit Street and go to Burlingtons, as stylish a bar as you can find. Here, sip a glass of champagne and contemplate your array of carrier bags. Contemplate a brief foray to nearby Hamley's — then dismiss the idea.

Now you either know a coloured-crystal-fish woman or you don't; if she keeps alabaster eggs and little boxes with a legend such as "To Err is Human, To Forgive Divine", you've got her. Lalique make these wondrous twinkling fish (we're back in Bond Street) and people who like them want all 12 colours: at £59 a throw, you are covered until Christmas 2004.

It might seem risky to buy someone a hat, but Herbert Johnson's new "Borsalino" (£95) is the exception: lightweight, unlined, waterproof felt that rolls up like a Panama, it is a dream for men and women.

Last port of call for the amusing: Smythsons, the Queen's stationers. Besides fabulous paper and envelopes (gold lined, some of them) they offer an amazing array of leather-covered things. Pencil sharpeners, contact lens cases, cheapo lighters rendered cheapo no longer. Best is their stamp box at £14.50: a dinky leather cube with a miniature envelope on the top in which you, er, keep stamps: better pop in a few first class so that the recipient doesn't think you've taken leave of your senses.

So you've bought everything, all is cushioned in smart little boxes, and you feel like a victor — to say nothing of another glass of champagne. You have now reached Oxford Street whereupon you hail a taxi and head for home.

And that's really it, for the present.



MICHAEL POWELL

Joseph Connolly outside Mont Blanc in Burlington Arcade with the trophies of his successful shopping expedition

Presents to avoid buying at all costs

WIVES
1 Chip fryer
2 Red suspender belt
3 The wrong scent
4 Costume jewellery
5 Oven mitts
6 Oil of Ulay
7 Philips Ladyshave
8 Anything sensible
9 Anything frivolous
10 An IOU

WOMEN
1 Hard centres
2 The new Martin Amis
3 Deodorant
4 Diet book
5 Bath cubes
6 Anything self-assembly
7 Acrylic scarves
8 Pot pourri
9 Swiss army knife
10 Port

MEN
1 Monkey wrench
2 Handkerchiefs
3 Old Spice gift set
4 The new Anita Brookner
5 Babycham
6 DIY book
7 Propelling pencils
8 Take That CD
9 Harvey's Bristol Cream
10 Amusing tie

CHILDREN
1 Fountain pen
2 Shoes
3 Anything which does not bleep or require batteries
4 Drums (unless you hate their parents)
5 Bobble hat and scarf set
6 Book token
7 School blazer
8 Books you loved as a child
9 Things they will treasure when they get older
10 An orange and a piece of coal

Sale previews

☐ **Roll up**, it's showbiz week in the auction rooms: get your pair of black leather "kinky" boots, size 4, as worn by Honor Blackman in the Sixties television series *The Avengers* (£600 to £800) at Christie's South Kensington on Friday. Or how about an original foam rubber headdress as worn by Michael Keaton in the 1989 film *Batman* (£1,000 to £1,500)?

☐ The tour de force will be *the* bowler hat and cane used by Charlie Chaplin throughout his career. No strangers to the auction block, they sold for a record £82,500 at the same venue five years ago.

☐ **Greta Garbo's** written confidences are being aired for the second time at Sotheby's on Monday. Earlier this year, the late star's letters to her friend Salka Viertel came under the hammer. Now come the ones received by Mimi Pollak, another friend. Full of poignant references to being "always so alone", the current set of 40 is estimated at £20,000.

☐ You were wrong if you thought **Elton John** had nothing left after his massive sell at Sotheby's in 1988. On Tuesday he offloads his jewellery. Delights include a diamond pendant in the shape of a musical quaver (£650 to £850), and a brooch in the shape of a Watford Football Club rosette (£6,000 to £8,000).

☐ On a more reflective note, a rare first edition of **Beatrix Potter's** *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* could realise more than £2,000 at Christie's South Kensington on Wednesday. One of only 200 copies printed privately in 1902 because the author could not find a publisher, it first sold for 1s 2d. A collection of 17th-century "newsbooks" — the precursors of newspapers — is included in Sotheby's sale of English civil war pamphlets on Tuesday. The Fairfax collection, named after Oliver Cromwell's Commander-in-Chief Sir Thomas Fairfax, ranges in price from £200 for "A Brief Relation of the Surprise of the Forts of Weymouth" to £2,000 for a bundle including "The Charge of the Commons of England against Charls (sic) Stuart... of High Treason." The 540-lot sale could raise more than £250,000 for the commander's descendants.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Ruth Gledhill joins the Jehovah's Witnesses in a Bristol Kingdom Hall

Waiting for Armageddon

HUGH PINNEY



A young Witness allows her attention to wander during the Sunday meeting



THE well-dressed man stood at the front of the packed Kingdom Hall at the heart of a run-down estate on the outskirts of Bristol. "How does Jehovah deal with his servants?" he asked us. A young girl answered: "Jehovah is understanding towards us." A boy added: "He is kind."

Jehovah's Witnesses, one of the biggest non-Trinitarian Christian organisations in the UK, with more than 127,000 members, has attained public notoriety through the refusal of adherents to accept blood transfusions. The attendant publicity has detracted from qualities such as their insistence on strong personal morals and disapproval of divorce.

Worldwide, there are more than 4.7 million in 231 countries, with more in Mexico, Italy, Japan and Nigeria than in the UK.

The meeting at Deans Mead, near Avonmouth, in an area of some unemployment and where vandalism is rife, has grown to the point where it has had to split into two, with 90 people in the Sunday morning group and 65 meeting on Sunday afternoon. A new kingdom assembly hall to seat 1,200 is being built nearby, at Almondsbury, with volunteer Witness labour.

The Witnesses, who referred to each other as "brother" and "sister" and wore smart-cut suits and dresses, included an insurance broker, builders, doctors and teachers. Paul O'Dell, an elder and double-glazing salesman, said: "We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that Bible prophecies are being fulfilled in the present day. And that within the lifetime of folks that saw the 1914 war, we will see the battle of Armageddon and the establishment of Paradise on this earth."

Jehovah's Witnesses, founded by Charles Taze Russell in 1872, affirm Jehovah as the only true God, regard political powers as allies of Satan, aim for the establishment of God's Kingdom, the "Theocracy", on earth, and believe Christ is God's agent in this plan. They believe humans can be reconciled through Christ to Jehovah God, and want all nations to unite in worshipping Him. Their opposition to blood transfusions is based on their reading of the Bible, and they have set up hospital liaison committees to negotiate with medical staff for treatment without the use of blood.

They do not actively involve themselves in political affairs, do not vote or stand for elections. All members go knocking on doors, no matter what their age, spending up to 25 hours a week on this alone. Each Kingdom Hall has an area assigned for the canvassing, and successful contacts are carefully nurtured. Many hours are devoted to publishing, worship and other work. Throughout the meeting, volunteers patrolled the surrounding streets, safeguarding our cars from theft.

We began with a song about mercy and a brief prayer, when we asked Jehovah God for attentiveness at the meeting "which will help us to get to know you better and to imitate your finer qualities". We thanked Him for "having this third dimension, a spiritual dimension in a materialistic age". We moved quickly into a long talk from a visitor, David Jones, from Weston-super-Mare. "Are you a merciful person?" he began. "There is little doubt that mercy is regarded as being highly commendable and desirable. We must show mercy to anyone in need of help, to complete strangers as well as those we love. Mercy is compassion in action."

The congregation applauded his talk, rose for another song and then settled into an hour-long question-and-answer session based on an article in the movement's *Watchtower* journal. "Contrast Jehovah's view with that of humans as regards Jesus Christ and followers of Christ," we were urged by Stephen Cooper, an elder and British Telecom engineer, leading the discussion from the floor. This meeting has seven elders, responsible for teaching, who are helped in administrative duties by seven ministerial servants. The latter took a travelling microphone to members who responded with remarkable aptitude, almost in the manner of children who had learnt their times-tables the night before.

● *Meetings: Sunday 10am and 2pm, Tuesday 7.15pm, Thursday.*

Kingdom Hall, Deans Mead, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, BS11 0QX (0272 686076).
PRESIDING OVERSEER: John Furneaux.
DISCOURSE: Wide-ranging talk on mercy with *references to* Shakespeare and modern literature.★★★
ARCHITECTURE: Red brick with office-style chairs, bare walls; a sturdy structure which compared well with the surrounding estate.★★★
LITURGY: Non-existent.
MUSIC: Three songs composed by Witnesses.★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: None usually, although I was invited for coffee.★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Left with my head ringing with prophecies, hoping to reach home before Armageddon.★★

★ *stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

PROPERTY

Alpine Properties

ONE BEDROOM LUXURY APARTMENTS AT VAL THORENS
REDUCED TO £42,000
McCARTHY & STONE
RÉSIDENCES DE MONTAGNE
McCarthy & Stone Overseas, Homelife House, 26-32 Oxford Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8EZ. Tel. (0202) 299239.

SWITZERLAND
MOUNTAIN RESORT 90 MINS FROM GENEVA
* Large choice of individual chalets or apts
* Situated on our exclusive private park
* Available on the Ski Pistes or the Village Centre
* Mortgage facilities at cheap rates
FINGER IMMOBILIER
010 41 25353531
Fax: 010 41 25353939

ALPS/ LAKE GENEVA
Wide range of properties in several regions: FF 200,000 - FF 2,000,000; part owners - FF 185,000.
Tel 0784 471377

FRANCE
BELLE PLAGNE
Luxury 2 level apartment with balcony, sleeps 6/7, 2½ bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full kitchen, magnificent South West views. Ski in/out.
FF 870,000.
0732 743337.

SKIING APARTMENT FOR SALE OR RENT
MERIBEL MOTTARET
2 bedroom duplex flat, south facing piste
FF500,000 or FF5,000 PW
Tel: (0969) 738338
Fax: (0969) 540176

FRENCH ALPS
LAKE GENEVA & ANNECY
Chalets * Farmhouses * Villas
Apartments * Chateaux *
Hotels * Bars
Prices 250,000FF - 10 MFF
ALL REGIONS & RESORTS
Zigi Davenport
ALPINE APARTMENTS AGENCY
TEL: 0544 388234
Fax: 0544 388900

CITY & WEST END

ST KATHERINE'S DOCK. 1 bed with balcony, water views. £69,000 L/H. 071 480 6815/T.

Where the SQUARE MILE meets the WEST END at BARBICAN
Apartments available including studios from approx £56,000
Daytime call 071 628 4848 or 071 628 4341.
Evenings call 071 628 4172

DOCKLANDS

DOCKLANDS, selection of 2 bed/bath apts, water views. Fr £95,000. 071 480 6815/T.

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE

BELSIZE PARK, unique, well-presented, 2 bed raised ground-floor flat, 2 bath, balcony, orig. features. £235,000. 081-203 0336 or 0831 442269.

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BROOKVILLE RD SW6 3 bed hse with mbl rec, blt & rep d/rm, patio + rf bar. £192,000 f/h. Finlay Brewer 071 371 4171

FULHAM unusual 2 bed cottage, dble rec, conn. £119,950 F/H. Squire Radcliffe 071 381 3553

LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale. The specialist local agents. Vickers & Co 071 289 1692

MAIDA VALE £185,000. Lge 4 bedroom flat close to canal. 2 baths, 2 recpns, lift and porter. 071 409 0902, T.

MELROSE GDNS W14 Trendy refurb, 5/6 bds, 2 rec hse, 39 ft o/r gdn off conserv. £340k f/h. Finlay Brewer 071 371 4171

CLIVE TRUMAN & COMPANY
RANDOLPH AVENUE W9
Entrance by bright 2 bed 1st floor balcony flat. £190,950
LAUDERDALE MANSIONS W9. Well decorated 2nd floor 3 bed, 2 bath flat £215,000
ALEXANDRA COURT W9. Very well decorated, spacious 2 bed 1st floor apartment. £175,000.
Tel: 071 586 1125.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY
ST. JOHNS WOOD NW8.
Brand newly refurbished F/hold large mews house. 3 beds, large recep, garage. 50 yards from Regents Park.
Would make ideal rental investment
Quick sale required. Hence price £260,000.
Tel: 081 392 1656.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

ELAND RD SW11. 3 storey house, lower ground floor. Potential loft conv. 67' gdn. 5 recep, 3 bed, 2 bath. Premier St. Vendor found. £225,000 F/H. 071 228 9955 Wimbworth.

EAST ANGLIA

COUNTRY HOUSES in Suffolk & Essex. Peter Andrews Ltd. Lone Melford 0787 880660.

NORFOLK BROADS Paradise. Secure 2 bed holiday cott. with off-river mooring in conservation village of Coltishall. Part of newly conv 18C thatched barn. Beautiful setting in 1/2 acre r/olds park of an elegant Country House Hotel. Use of private well stocked fishing lake. Only £69,500. Tel: 0603 737851.

SUFFOLK - Village near A45/M11. Professionally refurbished Listed Building - 4 beds, 2 reception, kitchen, utility, two bathrooms, dressing room, cloaks. Small landscaped garden, chalet spa. £128,000. 0599 30732 or 0842 811321.

TWINT Halstead/ Colchester. Det 3 bdrm house. 7 acres pasture. ¼ mile river with fishing. Brick barn formally used for antique sale & renovation. £168,000. Apply Nicholas Percival. Chartered Surveyors 0206 563222

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CROSS COTTAGE Chipping Campden: 5 beds, fitted kitchen, utility room, OCH, garage, small garden; workshop and rear yard optional. All in £245K ono. details from 0386 852456.

HANTS., DORSET, AND I.O.W.

DORSET near Puddletown large 4 bed bungalow och lovely views £110,000 0269 837 383

KENT

LEEDS, Maidstone - Magnificent Qual House, 4800 sq. ft., 5 beds, 4 baths, 4 recept, kitchen, w.c./cloaks, utility, 8 acres with parking for 6/7 cars, stables, tackroom/store, & pavilion/accommodation. Perfectly by the finest new conversion available. £565,000 freehold. Owlsmill Ltd 0622 817999 (eve.) 0622 832577 (eve/wknd)

LENHAM/Smeeth area - Last of 3 superb Cowthouses, spacious 2300 sq. ft., 6 beds/2 baths, garden, 2 miles station, 55 mins Charing X, £187,000. PX poss. Owlsmill Ltd (06223 817999 (off. Hrs.) - (06223 832877 (eve. & wknds).

SUSSEX

WAREHAM
Recently built family house in walled garden with extensive views, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 3 reception rooms. Kitchen /breakfast room, extensive loft space, double car port. Small range of outbuildings. Planning consent for double garage. About 3/4 acres. Offers invited in region of £235,000 (a further 1.4 acres may be available)
Meakhouse and Partners
(Tel 0798 872981)

COUNTRY RENTALS

CIRENCESTER 4 mls. charming fully-equip 3 bedroom cott. Avail Winter. Tel: 0285-740230.

EWELL village Surrey lovely detached 4 bedroom house in quiet cul-de-sac short walk from village and Ewell West BR station. (Waterloo 30 mins). Avail Unfurnished Jan 1994 at £1,750pcm. Tel: 081-949 4980

BALEARICS

MALLORCA Porto Colom. Detached chalet 4 dble bedrms. 2 bathrms, lounge with fireplace, sorrow, 2 large terraces, fully fitted kitchen. £115,000. Tel: 0103471 207828

FRANCE

ALPS Provence & Cote D'Azur. New properties from £35,000 - £350,000. Mason Individuelle 0707 376285

BELLE PLAGNE - Luxury 2 level apt with balcony, sleeps 6/7. 2½ bed, 2 baths. Full kitchen, magnificent S.W. views. Ski in/out. FF 870,000. 0732 743337.

BRITTANY 20 mins St. Malo. On River Rance. Beautifully restored house 30yds from river & marina - ideal for boatowners. 4 Dble Beds 3 Baths. Lge Lounge (open granite fireplace), Dining Room & 2nd lounge. Master suite has luxury bathroom & dressing room. Oak Floors. Office. Games & Exercise Room. Fitted Kitchen. Splendid river views. Garden/terrace & pond. Garage. Elec CH. Immac cond. Dinard airport 15 mins for Jersey & Gatwick flights. FF 1,870,000 for quick sale. 010 33 96 83 33 07/ Fax 33 96 83 32 69 for colour details.

COTE D'AZUR Var Villas. Aparts for short & long let. Nice Cimiez & Co Tel. 0603-507636; fax: 0603-501320

FOCUS ON FRANCE For your free copy of UK's largest classified list: 081-542 9088

FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS Monthly. for a free copy. Telephone 081 542 0321.

SKI studio on piste in Flaine. Sleeps 5. Bargain at £29,800. Private sale Tel: 0734 405 426

VILLECROZE Var 4 bed house. Hall, rec, fireplace, kit cellar, shower. Poss loft conv 2 rooms 795,000 FF. Adj plot 1,000 sqm planning perm. 300 sqm villa 350,000 FF excl tax. Nice Cimiez & Co. Tel: 0603 507636, fax: 0603 501 320

PORTUGAL

MADEIRA Funchal. Opp Reids Hotel. Sea & Mountain views. 1,2 & 3 bed hse apts fr £96,000-£206,000. 081 964 0328.

SPAIN

SPAIN BUYING/SELLING For free copy of UK's largest classified list: 081-542 9088.

LETTINGS

ALL Central London properties. 1 bdrm - 5 bdrm flats & houses, short & long lets from £160pw - £3,000pw. 071 437 5386 t

SOHO Dean St W1 Furnished studio flat with separate bathand galley kitchen £136pw Sweby Cowan 071 240 4334

SOHO Soho Sq W1 2 double bed furn flat. large recep, comm roof terr. Rent incl maid bed linen & towels £290pw Sweby Cowan 071 240 4334

ST JOHNS WOOD Luxury 2 bed flat. Large lounge f/f with fit kit and bath, close tube. £300pw. 071 437 5386 t

WANDSWORTH COMMON Unusual Gothic spacious apt. 3 bed, 2 recpts, bath. Self contained granny flat. 2 Car spaces. Ideal for Media/Exec people. Avail turned £600pw. 071 228 9955 Wimbworth (Wkd).

WIGMORE ST W1 Furn 4 bed, 3 bath, 3 recep townhouse, priv pking space, balcony, long or short let £975-£1,250pw Sweby Cowan 071 240 4334

with a wealth of surprises!

with many surprises to celebrate the New Year
*Rooms to be danced

"WILDLY MAGIC...SUPERB...A WINNER AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

How the British put family life on the skids

J. P. FRANKENHAUSER/IMAGE BANK



The sport of tobogganing was invented by Britons on holiday in Switzerland toying with farm children's sledges

Sledging on 'crooked runs' is a great way to unwind, **Doug Sager** says

A generation before the first ski track was carved there, sledging came to the Alps. As a rugged rough-and-tumble sport, featuring ladies in bustles and gentlemen in bowler hats, tobogganing (as it was known) was an entirely British innovation.

In 1864, feeling the lack of tourists (there were none), a canny Swiss innkeeper from St Moritz made a never-to-be-repeated offer of free Christmas hospitality to four British families. Having little else to do, the British began toying with the children's sledges they found lying around local farmyards.

By the 1880s British colonies had sprung up in St Moritz and Davos. An English newspaper focusing on sledging society had been started and a book, *Tobogganing on Crooked Runs*, was published. It was noted at the time that the focus of interest had shifted from the daredevil driver to the design of the sledge itself when people began to bet on the races.

Sledging moved out of the villages and on to purpose-built runs, the most famous of which was built in 1885. The Cresta Run was paid for by the same hotelier who first invited the British to St Moritz, with the proviso that no Swiss be allowed on the steering committee. To this day no women are permitted to run the Cresta. Eccentricity is an integral part of tobogganing.

Today sledging is ignored by the estimated 600,000 Britons who travel to the Alps each winter. Package holiday skiing puts the emphasis on yo-yoing up and down the lifts, bashing the pistes. Continental Europeans, by contrast, toboggan together for family entertainment.

At any age sledging evokes the innocence of youth. It is one of the few things in life which is unadulterated fun the first time, and every time. Sledges are for hire at nominal prices everywhere in the Alps. And there is generally no fee for running the course.

Indeed, even the sledge can be surplus to requirements for those seeking the pure whole-body snow-massage experience. Wherever there is a hill small children will amuse themselves, and anybody watching, by "body-surfing" headlong down the snow mounds, frolicking like marmots in the winter sunshine.

Grown adults, too, sometimes take to sliding without sledges. "Poubelling" is a famous and fear-inducing way down icy mountain paths after late-night fondue parties up at slopeside inns. Intrepid and often inebriated sliders slip themselves into a plastic garbage *(poubelle)* bag and "go with the flow". This alfresco *après*-dining experience has resulted in more injuries in the Alps than the entire World Cup skiing circuit.

Nevertheless, tobogganing remains essentially a family sport. Many sledging runs in Austria and Switzerland are lighted at night, in recognition that some people have to work for a living. Coasting down "crooked runs" is a great way to unwind.

The tang of woodsmoke, the heady scent of pine; taking the view on a sit-up sledge *en famille* or catching flashing glimpses from the prone position on a racing skeleton. Snow crystals glisten in the winter sun, shimmer under the glow of moonlight... all these impressions mingle with the kinaesthetic shock of falling, faster and faster from a slow-motion start.

In Switzerland and Austria, there are as many local varieties of sledge design as there are *vins ordinaires* in France. Hand-made Davoser and Arosa models costing over £300 vie with plastic supermarket models on sale for a tenner. Christian Mark in Bergün, Switzerland, who sells more than 1,500 Davosers a year, prefers more modern sledges with metal runners and steering, such as the classic Flexible Flyer from the USA. Plastic models, he warns, can shred apart and cut children.

A minimalist sport, all sledging demands is declivity. In Austria there are more than 500 organised sledge runs, in Switzerland 350. Most provide sledges for hire. Transportation to the runs is via local trains or ski lifts. Difficulty ranges from iced racetracks, where speeds of more than 100kph are possible, to meandering paths through the woods taken at a crawl.

In Switzerland, Bergün, a hideaway hamlet not far from St Moritz, is a favourite with families. A quaint cog railway delivers sledgers to Preda for a 5km run, groomed daily, down through forests and pastures. This easy ride is negotiated by as many as 6,000 toboggans a day.

Daredevils will forever be denied demon status until they have dared the Cresta — simply the fastest and most famous run in the world. The Cresta, which is run on a skeleton by a solo (male) person, should not be confused with the bobsled run.

Any male with the machismo and the money is welcome on the Cresta. More than 200 took up last year's introductory offer. Helmet, pads and steel-spiked shoes are all included in the £200 initiation fee for the first five runs. But be warned, before you start the 1,200m run, where speeds of 145kph have been recorded: the most frequently witnessed manner of stopping is by flying off the course.

The tiny Tyrolean resort of Imst is a major European centre for competitive tobogganing, with Austria's only school for teaching sledging techniques. Imst also caters for beginners on "medium" runs of 4 to 6km, one of which is open from 8pm to 2am.

You may not remember your favourite sledge by name on your deathbed, the way Citizen Kane did. But the next time a skiing holiday threatens to become more frustration than fun, escape to the toboggan run and slide right out of the slough of despair.

● *The Austrian (071-629 0461) and Swiss (071-734 1921) tourist offices have free booklets detailing which resorts have sledge runs, the length, opening hours, hire costs, night-sledging and prices. For more information on the runs above, call Bergün 010 41 81 731 152, Cresta Run 010 41 82 331 47, and Imst 01 043 5412 2419.*





LEFT

Sally Ready wears blue and brown check wool blanket coat, £109.99 and wool polo neck sweater, £64.99, both from PTA, 124 King's Road, London SW3 (for other stockists, 071-437 8569); velvet and fake fur hat, £19.99, and check pleated skirt, £29.95, from Marks & Spencer nationwide; gloves, £26.95, from Naf Naf, 328 Oxford Street, W1 (other stockists, 071-491 2016).

BELOW

Kate Chevenix Trench wears red wool duffel coat, £92.95 and grey trousers, £39.95, both from Naf Naf, stockists as before. Snowflake hat, £4.99, gloves, £3.99 and scarf, £7.99, all from Debenhams.

BELOW

Gregory Rose wears red and green tartan wool jacket, £85, by Casual Club at Debenhams branches nationwide; tartan scarf, £4.99, Debenhams; bottle green jeans, £19.99, Marks & Spencer.

Photographs by Denzil McNeelance





your £10 gives her the safety of one of ours!

For hundreds of homeless teenagers on London streets exploitation is one of the greatest risks.
Rejected by family; unable to find work; and excluded from state benefits - they still need to eat!
What's on offer? Crime. Drug peddling. Prostitution.... or with your help, a place in one of over twenty-five St Christopher's Fellowship hostels, and a route away from the streets forever.

Please help them to say 'NO!' to exploitation. Send a donation today - tomorrow could be too late!

St Christopher's
REBUILDING YOUNG LIVES

To: St Christopher's Fellowship, 53 Warwick Road, London SW5 9HD.

YES! I want to help homeless young people. My donation is enclosed. (Cheques to: St Christopher's Fellowship)

☐ £250 ☐ £120 ☐ £36 ☐ £10 ☐ £.....

Card No.

Signature _____ Expiry date _____

Or speak to our Credit Card hotline 071 244 7566 TT 6-12

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr. etc) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Registered Charity No 207782

Experience the luxury of choice

Oh come all ye tuneful

On Friday, London Concert Choir will raise the roof of St Martin-in-the-Fields. **Janet Impey** lends an ear

Forget those tinny renditions of "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" so beloved of the town store Tannoy system — *real* carols, sung by a well-rehearsed choir, can bring an emotional response to even the most hardened of anti-Christmas cynics. Certainly the members of London Concert Choir will help to restore faith in the virtues of seasonal rejoicing when, next Friday, they perform their Christmas recital at St Martin-in-the-Fields, one of the best known Anglican churches in Britain.

The choir will be singing an intriguing mix of Polish, American and popular traditional carols chosen by its musical director and conductor, Gregory Rose. Since being appointed in 1988, Mr Rose has gained a reputation for his innovative repertoire, revelling in the challenge of new and unusual works. He is dedicated to his music and expects high standards from his fellow musicians.

"All conductors have good and bad experiences," he says. "As a freelance conductor, I have guest-conducted many orchestras in Britain and Europe, and occasionally there are a few troublemakers."

For a concert, formal dress is all part of the calming ritual. "It's a bit like a uniform, it exudes authority," Mr Rose says. He often wears black tails or a white jacket which he bought from Moss Bros about four years ago, but, for everyday wear, he prefers brighter colours for everyday life. "Outside my work and for rehearsals I dress casually in sweaters and jeans or cord trousers."

The choir's weekly meetings are well attended. About 90 people turn up for regular practice and some have been singing with the choir since 1960, when it began life as the Brompton Choral Society. "We are all very committed," says Sally Ready, who has been with the choir for 18 years. "I find singing a wonderful therapy, and by the end of a two-hour rehearsal you feel on top of the world."

Like many other members of the choir, Miss Ready will be attending a Christmas Day church service. "I love a traditional family Christmas," she says, "and that includes a service at the King's College Chapel at Cambridge. Both my nephew and my fiancé's father were at King's, so there is a family connection."

Kate Chevenix Trench, who joined London Concert Choir three years ago, will also be singing in her local church choir during Christmas. "We sing carols in the village and end up in the local pub, where we have mince pies and mulled wine. Then we'll sing carols at Midnight Mass and again on Christmas morning, when the rest of my family come along. Then it's back to the house for a traditional Christmas lunch. We like to make Christmas lunch special, so we all dress quite smartly. I'll wear a long tartan skirt from Laura Ashley and a silk shirt.

"For the same reason, I enjoy wearing a black skirt and white blouse for choir performances. But because I associate black and white with the choir, I would never choose them for work."

Miss Chevenix Trench, an editor for a publishing company, dresses for comfort in leggings and baggy sweaters or shirts. On Monday evenings, she goes directly from her office to rehearsals to join her fellow singers.

"It's a fabulous way to make friends," says June Sutherland, an occupational therapist. "It is a hobby, but one which we all take very seriously. The standards are very high and everyone has to re-audition after three or four years. I try to practise singing during the week."

Angela Bryant, a music teacher at the Twyford Church of England School in Acton, west London, says that good breath control is the secret of good singing. "It helps to be fit. We do about ten minutes of voice exercises before rehearsals, concentrating on the enunciation of the vowels and consonants to get good diction. I learn a lot from the way Gregory teaches us, and it helps me in my work as well."

Once rehearsals are over, throats need lubricating. "We don't generally drink alcohol before singing," says Kevin Darnell, who sings tenor and has been with the choir for nearly seven years. "We are very disciplined for a performance, but afterwards, we like to enjoy ourselves."

Anthony Sharp, the chairman of London Concert Choir, stresses the importance of presentation. "It's quite a competitive business. In London we are up against 40 or 50 choirs, all competing for the best venues. To perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall or the Royal Festival Hall, as we do, means paying attention to every detail. We even rehearse how the choir stands or sits."

Their professional attitude and impressive musical skills are what make many of their concerts a sell-out. "There's nothing quite like an appreciative audience," says Miss Chevenix Trench. "The experience of performing and doing something to the best of your ability on the night — that's what gives me the greatest thrill."



From left: Kate Chevenix Trench, Gregory Rose and Sally Ready relax in casual dress for rehearsals



London Concert Choir in formal performing attire — "It is a hobby, but one which we all take very seriously"

● *London Concert Choir will be singing carols at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Friday, December 17, 7.30 pm, with readings and audience participation. Tickets £12, £10, £7 from St Martin-in-the-Fields box office (071-930 0089). For more details, telephone membership secretary Dulcie Fairhurst (071-582 2658).*

هكذا من الأصل


ROBIN MAYERS

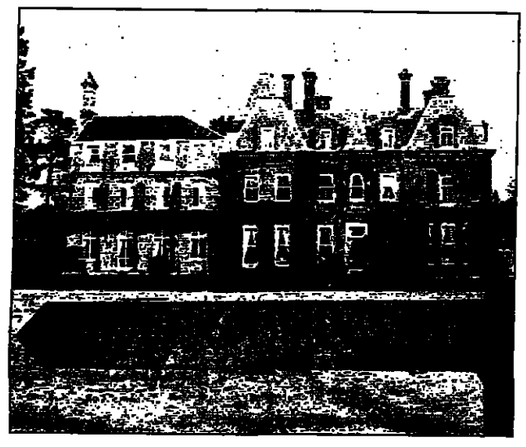
Sean Hughes takes his ease in the drawing room at Champneys — "the place is suited to people trying to lose weight in a pampered fashion"

A low-calorie taste of country life

Sean Hughes has let himself go over the past 28 years. Will a visit to Champneys in Hertfordshire revive him? We join him at the dining table



Champneys Health Resort (right) caters for the unfit and out of condition. The rations are healthy but there is a smoking-room (left) for tobacco addicts to indulge their unhealthy, anti-social passion and (below) a gym with muscle-building workouts, although after trying the bicycle machine, the steps, rowing and "the one with weights which you push with your arms that makes you all shaky after two goes", Sean Hughes could find no useful reason for being there — "S&M for the rich without the hassle of bondage"



Lunchtime and the restaurant was divided into two sections — normal and dieting. The staff were very helpful. "Excuse me, fat person, you're in the wrong section." The tiniest of partitions separated them. I was a bit put out that there was not a looks-like-death-warmed-up section. The buffet service shows you the number of calories per item. It took the fun out of eating, but I had some 400 calories with a side order of 150 calories with a 250-calorie dessert.

After lunch, I was booked in for heat treatment. I approached the desk with trepidation. A little old man said I could have sauna or steam. I opted for steam. "Just take off your robe and shut the door behind you." I lasted 40 seconds.

Next up was my massage. The young lady told me to keep my boxers on. I tried to make small talk. Luckily she was very clinical in her approach. All the same, when she started slapping my legs with that kung-fu motion, the noise made me want to shout out "Wayhay!" Only another five hours before dinner, so I had a slim-fit banana bar which seemed to disintegrate before it reached the mouth.

I forgot to bring togs with me, but the gift shop sold them in 100 per cent polyamide for a very unreasonable £30. Over a cigarette my friend remarked that if I could see my lungs, I would quit smoking. I pointed out that if I could see my lungs, I would have about three seconds to live, just time to light up.

I had never been to a gym before. I tried the bicycle machine, the steps, rowing and the one with weights which you push with your arms that makes you all shaky after two goes. Seeing me struggle over one weight, Gillie, the general manager, enthused about the amount I would be able to lift if I was there a full week. Somehow I do not think this is a skill that I will need. "Excuse me, Mr Removal Man, let me lift that heavy box for you. I've been to Champneys."

Gillie used to be an air hostess and it showed. She was a female Desmond Lynam. They must have gone to the same "speak calm, look concerned" soothing school. "Try to relaaax" was her catch phrase. She is the person you want beside you on your death bed. "Sean, we're just going to turn off your life support machine, try to relaaax."



After an hour's workout, it was time for the footy results, a nap and *Brookside*. Only two hours to dinner. I watched *Noel's House Party*, and maybe it was the pangs of hunger that were making me hallucinate but I think Noel really enjoys doing the show: he actually likes running around punning to his heart's content, playing japes on the public.

My chest cold had moved up to my head so I sneezed away the next hour. We were first down for dinner and I managed to barter an extra roll for an autograph. The butter portion covered a quarter of the roll at a stretch.

Seven hundred calories heavier and I was back in the smoking-room. A woman who has been coming for 20 years sat comfortably smoking an expensive cigar. "I don't use the sauna or pool because we have them at home." They obviously did not have chairs, then. Two young ladies from Harrow told of the secret stash of mince pies they smuggled in. The conversation got on to chocolate and somebody reminisced about 1977, when there was a chocolate mousse on the menu. It was very light though.

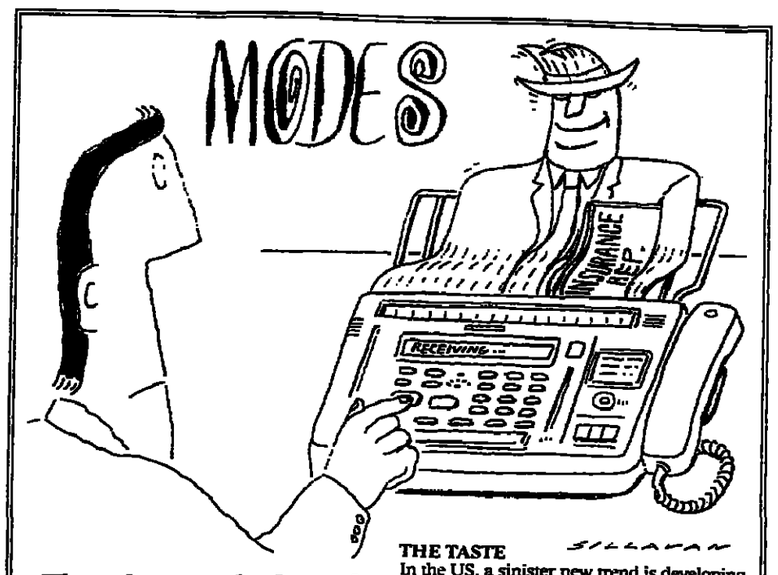
We had a midnight swim at 10pm. We knew it was the pool because John, who showed us around when we arrived, had explained, "This is the pool. This is where people swim. There are some towels over there." He was very proud of the number they use. (Officially, 1,750 a day.)

We had the whole pool to ourselves. It was glorious. I contemplated selling my soul and doing a television advert so I could build my own pool. I decided against it, and I went to bed hungrily, wondering if polyamide was edible.

After a good night's sleep, I checked to see what Champneys thought for the day was. This was the little message which they plastered all over the premises. It read, "The mind is like a flower, it is beautiful when it is open." I came with an open mind but I feel the place is more suited to people trying to lose weight in a pampered fashion, regardless of price. The facilities are excellent and the greatest joy was using the outdoor Jacuzzi in sub-zero temperatures. Your body delights in the warm bubbles as your face turns blue. Champneys is S&M for the rich without the hassle of bondage. The grounds are splendid and the interior looks much like a grand hotel, the one difference being all the guests look like the asylum inmates in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*: they walk around in robotic fashion wearing long white robes.

It did open my eyes to my excesses but it seems the more concerned you become about your health the less fun your life will become. Remember: "The pub is like a flower, it is beautiful when it is open."

● *Champneys Health Resort, near Tring, Hertfordshire. For reservations, ring 0442 873155. Two nights cost £330 per person.*



The whats and whys of the modern world

THE FETISH
Sharp-eyed clothing-label inspectors will know that fabrics often contain 10 per cent Lycra. But 100 per cent Lycra threatens to oust rubber, now that fetish dressing has become mainstream. It has the required tacky and tactile qualities, which the fashionably distressed can feel in next summer's collections by Helen Storey and Liza Bruce.

THE HAT
This winter, discerning pop stars can't get by without a ski hat from Duffer of St George. Satisfied customers include hat-wearing funkster Jamiroquai. American rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg has also been seen in a Duffer hat. He, however, is more famous for his arrest earlier this year.

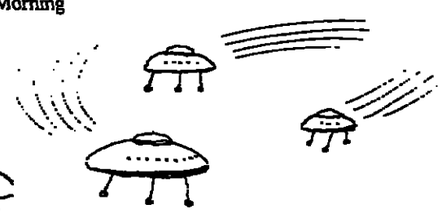
THE CURE
For the morning after, there's "Morning After", which purports to be the first natural hangover cure. Containing Iceland moss, black horehound and China root — among other exotic herbs — it certainly smells challenging. (Available from National Trust shops.)

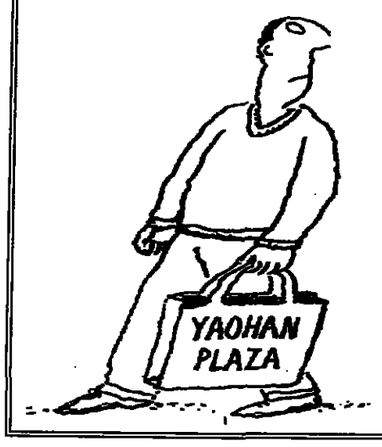
THE TASTE
In the US, a sinister new trend is developing as children foam blue at the mouth. But don't call the paramedics: the froth is caused by Mad Dawg bubble gum, which describes itself as "super spew bubble chew". Very tasteful.

THE COCKTAIL
Some Americans are so terrified of breathing polluted air they're *drinking* oxygen. The stomach can't absorb it, but this fact isn't stopping the rush to buy Oxygen Cocktail — simply mix the drink and inject with oxygen from a can. Less effective — but also less conspicuous — than any oxygen mask.

SPOT THE CULT: TRUE OR FALSE?
A) Topless bungee jumping. B) A fax which sends people, not paper. C) Barbie fitness video. D) "Fractal" orange juice. When the lid is removed, it activates swirling chaos designs.

Answers
A) True. Strangely, this is only observed at bikers' rallies, and the participants are exclusively female. B) False. But US freak-obsessed newspaper *Weekly World News* claims otherwise: they say the technology already exists and that the only disadvantage is a few skid marks on arrival. C) True. But how can mere mortals ever achieve her pink plastic perfection? D) False. An electric Kool-Aid for the 1990s has yet to be developed.





THE SHOP
Discerning consumers are flocking to Colindale, deep in suburban northwest London, to visit Yaohan Plaza, a new Japanese shopping complex. It's the perfect place to pick up a two-litre churn of Sapporo beer, gold lingerie by Wacoal, or UFO brand pot noodles (081-200 0009).

FIONA THOMPSON

HAVE A CHRISTMAS

The DIPLOMAT Classic...

A Fountain Pen produced from Brass with four coatings of lacquer, machine polished, finished in 24 carat Gold plating and presented in a prestigious velvet lined presentation box with a choice of cartridge or converter...
FROM ONLY £55.00

CLASSIC: Lacquer Fountain Pens RRP £55.00 Ball Pens RRP £35.00 Marble Fountain Pens RRP £65.00 Ball Pens RRP £45.00 (24 ct Gold plating)

EMBASSY:
Lacquer Fountain Pens RRP £35.00 Ball Pens RRP £30.00
Marble Fountain Pens RRP £45.00
Ball Pens RRP £35.00 (18 ct Gold plating)

EPOQUE:
Lacquer Fountain Pens RRP £40.00 Ball Pens RRP £29.00
Marble Fountain Pens RRP £55.00
Ball Pens RRP £40.00 (18 ct Gold plating)

DIPLOMAT

Stockists of Diplomat include...

Fenwick BOND STREET
The Pen Shop
PETER JONES
FORTNUM & MASON
WH SMITH
JARROLD
THE PEN CONNECTION
JOHN LEWIS
Oxford Street

...with a wealth of surprises!
"Dance to be danced"
AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 1920

ENTERTAINMENTS

FAX: 071 481 9313
071 782 7828

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

BARBICAN HALL TUE 14 DEC at 7.30pm

HANDEL: MESSIAH

CITY of LONDON SINFONIA

RICHARD HICKOX conductor
JANICE WATSON MICHAEL CHANCE
NIGEL ROBSON MICHAEL GEORGE SINFONIA SINGERS

Sponsored by Amdahl

£5, £10, £15, £20, £25 Box Office/CC 071-638 8891

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL '93

BARBICAN HALL
Box Office/CC 071-638 8891

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

BACH *Christmas Oratorio* Opening Chorus
Air on a G String; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born & Worthy is the Lamb; Ombra Mai Fu (Handel's Largo)
ADAM The Holy City; **GOUNOD** Ave Maria
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; **CLARKE** Trumpet Suite
STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary
BERLIOZ *L'Enfance du Christ* Shepherd's Farewell
CAROLS FOR CHOIR, CHILDRENS' CHOIR & AUDIENCE

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond
BONAVENTURA BOTTONE ten
CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt
Thomas Tallis Choir Capital Arts Childrens' Choir

£7.50, £10.50, £15.50, £17.50, £19.50

BOXING DAY at 7.30 pm

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MOZART.....Don Giovanni Overture
HANDEL.....Water Music Suite
GRIEG.....Piano Concerto
BEETHOVEN.....Symphony No.6 *Pastoral*

MICHAEL REED conductor
LUCY PARHAM piano

£9.50, £13.50, £18, £21, £24

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27 DEC at 7.30 pm

OPERA GALA NIGHT

Three great opera stars in a programme of operatic all-time favourites including

BIZET Prelude *(Carmen);* Duet *(The Pearlfishers)*
ROSSINI Ov, Largo al factotum *(Barber of Seville)*
VERDI Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves *(Nabucco);* Brindisi & Prelude Act 3 *(La Traviata);* Pace Pace *(La Forza del Destino);* Grand March *(Aida);*
MEYERBEER Coronation March *(Le Prophete);*
LEONCAVALLO Prologue *(I Pagliacci);* **PUCCINI** Humming Chorus *(Madame Butterfly)* Nessun Dorma *(Turandot);* **MASCAGNI** Voi lo sapete, Intermezzo, Easter Hymn *(Cavalleria Rusticana)*

JOSEPHINE BARSTOW soprano
ARTHUR DAVIES tenor, STEVEN PAGE baritone
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS cond
LONDON CHORAL SCTY, WELSH GUARDS FANFARE TRUMPETERS

£9.50, £13.50, £18, £21, £24

BANK HOLIDAY TUESDAY 28 DEC at 7.30 pm

MOZART IN COSTUME

Following last Christmas's sell-out performance, the MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA returns to perform in authentic 18th-Century costume.

Marriage of Figaro Ov, Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Piano Concerto No.23, Horn Concerto No.4
Symphony No.41 *Jupiter*

IAN WATSON piano/dir RICHARD WATKINS horn

£9.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm

BALLET GALA

Music and Dance from the great classical ballets including

TCHAIKOVSKY *Swan Lake* White Swan Pas de Deux*; Dance of the Cygnets*; Fiances' Dance*; *The Nutcracker* Grand Pas De Deux*; **PROKOFIEV** *Romeo & Juliet* Balcony Scene; Montagues & Capulets; **DELIBES** *Coppelia* Prelude & Mazurka; *Sylvia* Intermezzo; **MEYERBEER/LAMBERT** *Les Patineurs* Pas de Trois*; **J STRAUSS/DORATI** *Graduation Ball* Romantic Waltz*
*These Items will be danced

Featuring soloists from the famous LONDON CITY BALLET:
KIM MILLER, JANE SANIG, TRACEY NEWHAM-ALVEY, GARY SHUKER, JACK WYNGAARDE & RODGER VAN FLETEREN with ANGELA MURDOCH, VIRGINIA VINEY, TRACEY LORRAINE & JODIE BENNETT
LONDON CONCERT ORCH, DARYL GRIFFITH cond

Adults: £8.50, £12.50, £14.50, £17.50, £19.50
Children Under 16: £6.50, £10.50, £12.50

WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Stars of the classic era of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company return following their sell-out performances with excerpts from the Savoy Operas including:

The Mikado • The Gondoliers
HMS Pinafore • Patience
Iolanthe • Ruddigore
The Pirates of Penzance

JILL WASHINGTON, LORRAINE DANIELS, PATRICIA LEONARD, GEOFFREY SHOVELTON, KENNETH SANDFORD, ALISTAIR DONKIN, JOHN AYLDON, THE MAGIC OF GILBERT OF SULLIVAN CHORUS
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, DAVID STEADMAN conductor

£8.50, £11.50, £15.50, £19.50, £21.50

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3 pm
VIVA VIVALDI

THE FOUR SEASONS

A celebration of the life of Antonio Vivaldi, The Red Priest, whose greatest work, *The Four Seasons* rounds off a classic programme of baroque masterpieces.

Concertos for 2 Trumpets; 2 Violins and 2 Violins & Cello "The Little Christmas" *(from L'Estro Armonico);*
2 Mandolins; and The Four Seasons

MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, IAN WATSON director
ALISON KELLY & DAVID JURITZ violins, JOHN HELEY cello
NIGEL WOODHOUSE & JAMES ELLIS mandolins
CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS & EDWARD HOBART trumpets

£8.50, £11.50, £14.50, £17.50, £19.50

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

GLINKA.....Russian & Ludmilla Overture
SIBELIUS.....Finlandia
RACHMANINOV....Piano Concerto No.2
DVORAK.....*New World* Symphony No.9

ANTHONY INGLIS conductor PHILIP FOWKE piano

£9.50, £13.50, £18, £21, £24

MONDAY 3 JANUARY at 7.30 pm

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

"The Legend Lives On"

A tribute at the start of the 50th Anniversary Year of Miller's death & the D-Day Landings. In the second half the Orchestra will play in the uniforms of the US Army Air Force Band. Favourites in their original arrangements with *Tuxedo Junction, Little Brown Jug, Chattanooga Choo Choo, St. Louis Blues March, Pennsylvannia 6500, Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, Moonlight Serenade & In The Mood,* plus such Miller specials as *Stars & Stripes Forever & Over Here.*

RELIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE 'FORTIES IN THIS GLORIOUS EVENING OF GLENN MILLER MAGIC

JOHN WATSON dir, Special guests TONY MANSELL, DONNA CANALE, THE MOONLIGHT SERENADERS, THE UPTOWN HALL GANG

£8, £11, £14.50, £16, £17.50

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL '93

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
In Association with IMG Artists
Box Office/CC 071-589 8212

NEXT FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

HOOKED ON CHRISTMAS

LOUIS CLARK directs the
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC POPS ORCHESTRA
ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR

Playing the best from the Smash Hit million selling albums
"HOOKED ON CLASSICS"

Hooked On Classics, Can't Stop the Classics & Journey Through the Classics, in a Christmas special with lights & sound. Great entertainment for all!

£22.50, £20.50, £18.50, £15.50, £10.50, £8.50

Sponsored by Cockburn's Special Reserve Port

NEXT SATURDAY 18 DEC at 3.00 & 7.30 pm

JAMES GALWAY'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

"THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN FLUTE" brings his own special brand of seasonal cheer to the Royal Albert Hall in a programme of his favourites which includes The Irish Suite & Dances for Flute by David/Overton, Jerome Kern Medley, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas, Christmas Songs and Carols with Jimmy and Jeanne, Choir and Audience!

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
with JEANNE GALWAY flute
MICHAEL REED cond, ENGLISH CONCERT CHORUS

£25, £22.50, £20, £14.50, £10, £7.50
3pm Performance: CHILDREN HALF PRICE

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER at 3 & 6.30 pm

THE BACH CHOIR FAMILY CAROLS

Unilever

The Bach Choir's traditional programme of Christmas Carols including an international mixture of favourite carols from England, Europe and the New World. Children between 7 & 10 years will be invited to join the choir on stage.

SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS conductor
GRAHAM ASHTON BRASS ENSEMBLE
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE RMSM, KNELLER HALL
Lt. Col. R.G. TOMLINSON director of music, JANE WATTS organ

£6.50, £8.50, £12.50, £15.50, £17.50, £19.50
MATINEE: A FEW SEATS ONLY AVAILABLE
Sponsored by Unilever

MONDAY 20 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

LONDON CITY BALLET BALLET SPECTACULAR

A special Gala Performance by the renowned London City Ballet featuring the full company of Soloists, Corp de Ballet & full orchestra.

J STRAUSS *Graduation Ball* (complete)
DELIBES *Coppelia* Czardas
TCHAIKOVSKY *The Nutcracker* Dance of the Miriltons; *Swan Lake* Grand Pas de Deux
MEYERBEER *La Patineur* (complete)
FAURE *Requiem* Pie Jesu

HAROLD KING artistic director
DARYL GRIFFITH musical director

£10, £17.50, £20, £25, £30

TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY CAROL CONCERT

The Royal Choral Society's annual Carol concert when the Choir invites you to sing with them some of the best loved Carols such as Adeste Fidelis, God Rest Ye Merry, Good King Wenceslas, O Little Town and The First Nowell. The Choir will also entertain you with their wonderful singing of Stille Nacht, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Mary had a Baby to name but a few!

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, LASZLO HELTAY conductor
JOHN BIRCH organ. Introduced by ROBERT HARDY
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF HM ROYAL MARINES
Capt. R A WATKIN director of music

£6.50, £8.50, £12.50, £15.50, £17.50, £19.50
Sponsored by Braun

WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

THE BT CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

A host of Christmas favourites await you in BT's annual Christmas Carol Concert with the Royal Choral Society joining the Orchestra, the BT Band, the New London Childrens Choir and star soloist baritone John Rawnsley in a wonderful evening for all the family.

ESTHER RANTZEN will make a special appeal on behalf of the National Deaf Children's Society

LONDON CONCERT ORCH, ROYAL CHORAL SOC
LASZLO HELTAY conductor
Introduced by ROBERT HARDY

£6.50, £8.50, £12.50, £15.50, £17.50, £19.50

THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
HANDEL'S CHORAL MASTERPIECE

MESSIAH

YEHUDI MENUHIN
conducts the
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

SUSAN ROBERTS, LILLIANA BIZINECHE
ALGIS JANUTAS, BENNO SCHOLLUM
GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION

£7.50, £10, £14.50, £22.50, £25, £27.50

Sponsored by Republic National Bank of New York

CHRISTMAS EVE at 2.30 & 7 pm

GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

BACH Sheep May Safely Graze; Air on a G String; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
HANDEL *Messiah* For Unto Us a Child is Born, Comfort Ye & Evry Valley; Ombra Mai Fu (Handel's Largo)
ALBINONI Adagio; **PACHELBEL** Canon
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; **CLARKE** Trumpet Voluntary
STANLEY Trumpet Tune & Air; **BIZET** Agnus Dei
READINGS from 'A Christmas Carol', & the Birth of the Infant Jesus taken from the Scriptures &
CAROLS FOR ALL

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond
BONAVENTURA BOTTONE ten, CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt
CHRISTOPHER LANG reader,
THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR, TRINITY BOYS CHOIR, RAH ORGAN

£6.50, £8.50, £12.50, £15.50, £17.50, £19.50

BARBICAN HALL
071-638 8891 9AM - 8PM DAILY

THIS CHRISTMAS WHY NOT GIVE
THE GIFT OF ENTERTAINMENT?
BARBICAN CENTRE GIFT TOKENS
From just £1, available from the Box Office on 071-638 8891

Best prices available at time of going to press

Tonight 11 Dec 7.30pm	**THE KING'S SINGERS** 25th Anniversary Concert. A farewell to Simon Carrington & Alastair Hume. A concert to benefit the Royal Society of Musicians. All seats sold. RETURNS ONLY	*IMG Artists*
Tue 14 Dec 7.30pm	**HANDEL: MESSIAH** City of London Sinfonia, Richard Hickox cond., Janice Watson, Michael Chance, Nigel Robson, Michael George, soloists, Sinfonia Singers, City of London Sinfonia £25 £20 £15 £10 £5	*SPONSORED BY AMDAHL*
Wed 15 Dec 7.30pm	**THE SPRINKLES CHRISTMAS REUNION TOUR** with their unique style of folk and fun £14.50 £12.50 £10.50 £7.50	*Barry Clayman in association with the Barbican Centre*
Thur 16 Fri 17 Sat 18 Dec 7.15pm	**THE LSO NIKKO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS** London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Richard Hickox cond. Carols for audience and orchestra and other festive favourites inc. Leroy Anderson Sleigh Ride and Humperdinck Ov. Hansel and Gretel £7-£20	*LSO Ltd*

SPONS BY NIKKO EUROPE PLC AND THE NIKKO BANK (UK) PLC

Experience the luxury of cinema

SOUTH BANK
Tel/CC 071-928 8800 10am–9pm daily Page Charge

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 11 Dec 7.00	**SOS CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Dame Vera Lynn, Sarah Greene, Tony Slattery, Russ Conway, Richard O'Brien, Adrian Love, Bob Reader (dir) International Special Needs Dance Co. £16.50, £14, £12, £9, £6 *SOS*
Sun 12 Dec 3.00	**THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** Inc: Christmas Oratorio Opening Chorus; Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring; The Holy City; Panis Angelicus; For Unto Us a Child is Born; Ave Maria; 'Shepherds' Farewell; Carols. £21.50, £18.50, £9.50 (ONLY) Raymond Gubbay
Sun 12 Dec 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH Mark Wigglesworth (cond) Thomas Zehetmair, Tabea Zimmermann. Birtwistle: Ritual Fragment; Mozart Sinfonia Concertante; Mahler Sym 10. £28,£20,£17,£13,£8 (ONLY) *Lon Phil*
Mon 13 Dec 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Yevgeny Svetlanov (cond) Vladimir Ovchinnikov (pno) Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No.3; Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4. Sponsor: Elf in support of Cancerlink. £22, £17, £10, £5, £4 (ONLY) *Philharmonia Ltd*
Tue 14 Dec 7.30	**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Angela Rippon (presenter/actress) Anthony Inglis (conductor) London Concert Orchestra. Lots of Christmas fun & carols. £21.50, £18.50, £17.50, £12.50, £9.50, £6.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 15 Dec 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH. Marius Jacobsen (cond) Mikhail Rudy (pno) Schubert Ov in C, in the Italian Style; Beethoven Pno Conc No.2; Mozart Symphony 41 (Jupiter). Sponsor: Aud. £28, £20, £17, £13, £8, £5 *Lon Phil*
Thu 16 Dec 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** WWF Benefit Concert. Lorin Maazel (cond) Miss Rendle, Linda Finnie, Roberto Alagna, Gregg Baker, Philharmonia Chorus. Verdi Requiem Sponsor: Penland Grp plc. RETURNS ONLY *Philharmonia Ltd*

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 11 Dec 7.00	**MONTEVERDI: L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA** (concert perf in Italian) John Eliot Gardiner (cond) English Baroque Soloists, cast inc. Sylvia Nichols, Anne Sofie von Otter, Michael Chance. RETURNS ONLY *Monteverdi Choir & Orch Ltd*
Tue 14 Dec 7.45	**CHRISTMAS WITH THE TALLIS SCHOLARS** Peter Phillips (dir) Josquin des Prés: Praeter rerum seriem;Benedicta es; Ave Maria...Virgo serena; Palestrina: Salve regina; Ockeghem: Salve regina; Compère: Magnificat. £13, £11, £9, £7.50 *Gimell*
Wed 15 Dec 7.45	**BENEFIT CONCERT** Bellowhead Guerrini, Ivor Cutler, Orphy Robinson and his band & Simon Jeffes (of the Penguin Cafe Orch). Artists & organisers have given services free; all proceeds go straight to Shelter's Winterwatch campaign. £10 Serious Speakout
Thu 16 Dec 7.45	**THE SWINGLE SINGERS CHRISTMAS SHOW** A rare chance to see the legendary Swingle Singers in London. The Story of Christmas - songs & carols, both old & new, depicting the Nativity story. £13, £10, £8, £6 The Swingle Singers

PURCELL ROOM

Fri 10 Sat 11 Dec 8.00	**THE VOICE ELECTRIC I & II** Two concerts of works for vocal ensemble & tape, inc 4 world prems, transforming the Purcell Room into a theatre of sound with the installation of BEAST, Britain's most exciting sound diffusion system. £7.50 *Sonic Arts Network*
Sun 12 Dec 2.30 7.30	**SHERRILL MILNES MASTERCLASSES** The distinguished baritone works with young professional singers on arias, duets and ensembles from the operatic repertoire. £10, £8 each session London Masterclasses
Thu 16 Dec 8.00	**NATUSCIA CALZA** (piano) Schumann Abegg Variations, Op.1; Papillons, Op.2; Forest Scenes, Op.87; Feuchtswanger [Xiao-Haga Tiang (1992) (1st performance); Scarlatti Sonatas. £9, £7, £5 Helen Sykes Artists Mgt

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL '93

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Box Office/CC 071-928 8800

TOMORROW at 3 pm

GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

BACH *Christmas Oratorio* Opening Chorus
Air on a G String; Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born & Worthy is the Lamb; Ombra Mai Fu (Handel's Largo)
ADAM The Holy City; **GOUNOD** Ave Maria
FRANCK Panis Angelicus; **CLARKE** Trumpet Suite
STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary
BERLIOZ *L'Enfance du Christ* Shepherd's Farewell
CAROLS FOR CHOIR, BOYS CHOIR & AUDIENCE

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILIP SIMMS cond
HARRY NICOLL ten, CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS tpt
Thomas Tallis Choir Southend Boys Choir

£6.50, £9.50, £12.50, £17.50, £19.50, £21.50

NEXT TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

HUMPERDINCK *Hansel & Gretel* Overture
LEROY ANDERSON Sleigh Ride
TCHAIKOVSKY *Sleeping Beauty* Excerpts; *The Nutcracker* Waltz of the Flowers; **PROKOFIEV** *Lieutenant Kije* Troika; **SAINT-SAENS** Carnival of the Animals **WALD/TEUFEL** Skaters Waltz;
BIZET Jeux d'enfants; **L MOZART** Toy Symphony
CAROLS FOR ALL

Introduced & Narrated by **ANGELA RIPPON**
Special Guest: **FATHER CHRISTMAS**
...and some special surprises

LONDON CONCERT ORCH, ANTHONY INGLIS cond
ANDREW WEST & ANYA ALEXEYEV pianos

£6.50, £9.50, £12.50, £17.50, £19.50, £21.50

SUNDAY 2 JANUARY at 3.15 & 7.30 pm

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA

The traditional Viennese welcome to the New Year recreating the elegance & romance of 19th-century Vienna. The new programme includes Blue Danube Waltz, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Radetzky March, Pizzicato Polka, Thunder & Lightning Polka, Wine, Women & Song Waltz, Memories of Covent Garden Waltz, Czech Polka, Jockey Polka, Songs from Die Fledermaus & many more.

JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
JOHN BRADBURY dir/vln ANN MACKAY sop
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in period costume
GERALDINE STEPHENSON choreographer

Matinee: £7.50, £10.50, £14.50, £17.50, £19.50
Evening: £8.50, £12.50, £16.50, £19.50, £21.50
– ALSO AT –
ROYAL CENTRE - NOTTINGHAM, SAT 1 JAN. Box Office 0602 483626
FAIRFIELD HALL - CROYDON, SAT 8 JAN. Box Office 081 688 9291

36 Wigmore Street London W1H 9DF

WIGMORE HALL

Box Office 071 935 2141

Saturday 11 Dec 7.30 pm	**LEIF OVE ANDSNES** piano. International Piano Season Grieg: 4 Lyric Pieces from Op.54 Sibelius: Pensées lyriques, Op.17; Rhapsody in C Debussy: Estampes; Liszt: Années de pèlerinage: Deuxième année: Italie; Ballade No.2 £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 *IMG Artists Europe*
Sunday 12 Dec 11.30 am NB: starting time	**MARC-ANDRE HAMELIN** piano. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert Chopin: Barcarolle in F sharp Op.60; Ballade-Impromptu in C sharp minor Op.66; Scherzo in C sharp minor Op.39 Liszt: 6 Etudes d'exécution transcendante d'après Paganini £8 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice
Sunday 12 Dec 4.00 pm NB: starting time	**ROGERI PIANO TRIO** Villa Lobos: Trio No.2 Haydn: Trio in G HXIV Gypsy Rondo Arensky: Trio in D minor Op.32 *Musicians Concert Society/Sarah Quinton Concert Management* £10, £8, £6 (concs £8, £6, £4)
Monday 13 Dec 7.30 pm	**VALERY IN SCHEIDEMANN** piano. Haydn: Sonata in B minor HXVI/32; Schubert: Sonata in A D664; Prokofiev: Sonata No.3 in A minor Op.28; Rakhmaninov: Romance; Canon; Prélude in E flat minor (UK premières); Scherzo: Sonata in G minor Op.22. £14, £11, £8, £5 *Supported by the Embassy of the F.R.G.*
Wednesday 15 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE NASH ENSEMBLE, MICHAEL COLLINS** clarinet Leipzig Gewandhaus 250th Anniversary Series III Mozart: Trio in E flat K498 for clarinet, viola, piano; String Quintet in C minor K406; Serenade in B flat K361 for 13 wind instruments £12, £10, £8, £6 *NCE*
Thursday 16 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE ORLANDO CONSORT.** R Harris-Jones alto, C Daniels, A Smith tenors, D Greig baritone. Early Music & Baroque Series. Legrenzi: Cruciferis [1648-1690]: Mass for Christmas; Motets and Chansons: Works by Dering, Caron and Bassano. £10, £8, £6, £4
Friday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	**GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE, Dr Nicholas Cleobury** Corelli: Christmas Concerto Op.6 No.8; Vivaldi: Winter from the Four Seasons; Pachelbel: Canon and Gigue; Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.3; Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis; Holst: The Planets. £14, £12, £9, £6 *G.S.E.*
Saturday 18 Dec 7.30 pm	**WIGMORE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Paul Whelan (Leader Prize Cardiff Singer of the World), Julius Drake, John Bayless piano, Choristers of Westminster Cathedral, Sheila Kenge harp and Philharmonia Orchestra - with special guests! £15.00, £12.50 (all others sold) *Hold*

TONIGHT
Wigmore Hall, Sat 11th Dec at 7.30 pm

LEIF OVE ANDSNES
Returns to London!
"Simply exquisite...nothing short of breathtaking"

Works by
GRIEG, DEBUSSY
LISZT and SCHUMANN

Tickets £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50
Box Office/CC 071-935 2141

ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WILTON PLACE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW1
SATURDAY, 18th December, 1993
at 7.30pm.

GLORIA *Rutter*
DIVERTIMENTO in F (K 138) *Mozart*
MASS IN C MINOR (K 427) *Mozart*

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE.

ST PAUL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
ANNE TODD-HOWARTH ANDREW YEATS
SUSAN ANNE JENKINS JULIANN NIKOLAUS STEINER
Conductor: RICHARD M. LATHAM
Admission by programme £5.

THEATRES

10,000 CHRISTMAS PRESENTS – FREE!

BUY ONE TICKET FOR ANY OF THESE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MATINEES & WE WILL GIVE YOU A SECOND ONE AS A PRESENT.



Treat a friend or your family to a ticket for any of these special CHRISTMAS MATINEES (subject to availability)

MONDAY 20 DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER
FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER

BOOK NOW!
OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE DIRECTLY THROUGH BOX OFFICES

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
By Mark Twain
Adapted by Bryan Elsley

Contact Theatre
Oxford Road, Manchester
3 December - 15 January
Box Office 061 274 4400

"A WORK OF IMMENSE GRACE & POWER... MUST NOT BE MISSED" THE SCOTSMAN

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE presents

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

20 DECEMBER TO 2 JANUARY
BOX OFFICE 071-837 4104
MINICOM 071-713 0003
Lilian Baylis Theatre
SADLER'S WELLS
ARLINGTON WAY (Off Rosebery Ave) LONDON EC1

CONCERTS

LONDON'S PREMIERE SUPPER ROOM

The Green Room
AT THE CAFÉ ROYAL
Presents an Evening with


Barbara Dickson
13 Dec – 24 Dec


Buddy Greco
27 Dec – 8 Jan


Bobby Short
12–22 Jan

Monday - Saturday
Dinner 7.00pm Show 9.00pm
Late Night Show 11.00pm
Dinner and Show from £40.00 Show only from £18.50
For bookings:
please call direct on 071-457 9090 (9 lines)
or personally call at
The Café Royal between 7.00am - 12.00pm Mon-Sat,
68 Regent Street, London W1 6EL

The Union Theatre in association with Tobie Price Productions presents

Cinderella
A Traditional Family Pantomime



CONCERTS

ENTERTAINMENTS ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 17.

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.30
"40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT"



IGOR OISTRAKH
Beethoven & Tchaikovsky Violin Concertos
Beethoven Ov. Leonora No.3
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Cond ARNOLD KATZ
£9.50 £13.50 £16.50 £18 £24 £27.50 071-589 8212

Winter

Is it worth forking out on a design course?

Garden design courses are blossoming, but are they really worth digging in to? Liz Gerard puts on her wellies and finds out



STEPHEN MARKESON

Charlotte Power (third from left), of Writtle Agricultural College, Essex, supervises a "Tree and Shrub Planting" course. Her pupils (from left) are Jackie Larner, John Lotsu, Andrea Winter-Flood and Stuart Moore

School dinner clubs cater for those who yearn for grey mince, black-eyed spuds and spotted dick. Evening classes give backsliders a chance to catch up on *Jane Eyre* years after they last closed their desks. Hotels, village halls and museums sprout classrooms where avid adults are taught everything from wine-tasting to flower arranging: the lure of the schoolroom is apparently irresistible to those who don't *have* to be there.

So it's hardly surprising that the gardening fraternity is joining the throng. Garden design courses are springing up, promising a professional qualification in return for a year's study and a few thousand pounds.

Those planning a new career in landscaping may recoup their money, but the cost will daunt others who simply want to add to their gardening knowledge. For them, the answer appears to lie in short courses and one-day seminars.

But can you really learn anything from a few hours in a lecture room? Or are these courses simply catchpenny gimmicks providing a day out with the patina of self-improvement? To find out, I enrolled for a couple of one-day courses and a demonstration by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Each was enlightening in its way, but each lecturer was hampered by the disparate levels of knowledge within the class. No college administrator would put someone who has never spoken a word of French with a linguist seeking business fluency; it is madness for people who have not even grown a sunflower to be mixed with experienced gardeners seeking ideas for a five-acre spread.

The fun element was best appreciated by the team from *Gardening from Which?* magazine who ran the "Designing Small Gardens" day at Capel Manor in Middlesex, where the lecturer, Stephen Crisp, was backed up by specialists serving coffee, biscuits and advice during frequent breaks in proceedings.

Mr Crisp harboured no illusions of turning his 20 or so students into professional rivals, and instead limited his ambitions to teaching us to open our eyes and appreciate what we see. To that end, he used direct lecturing, slides and a tour of the Capel Manor gardens — in which he unabashedly derided the efforts of some fellow designers.

It might have been a mistake to schedule the slide show after the boozy buffet lunch, but we were soon woken from our torpor when presented with a design project. What a disaster! Ignoring everything we had been taught earlier, we all drew wavy paths and round lawns that looked as well with a rectilinear bungalow as a David Shilling hat on a bag lady. But Mr Crisp was patient and encouraging. And when we were all packed off with three little plants apiece, he was amazingly generous with his time as he was surrounded by students seeking a free redesign of their patch at home.



Charlotte Power with Samantha Stone and Paul Picton

The atmosphere at the English Gardening School's "Roses Round the Door" day was much darker — largely because the curtains were drawn all day as Nada Jennett's every word was illustrated by a slide. Pity the solitary man as the 40 of us sat claustrophobically in the classroom at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London, like the audience in the smallest theatre of a multi-screen cinema.

Ms Jennett started with the so-called history of the cottage garden. But does anyone seriously believe that there is a natural progression from a hovel with a pigsty, through Ann Hathaway's house to Gertrude Jekyll's 20-acre projects, and beyond to the idealised cottage gardens of today? Who is to say that those hovels were not the precursors of the modern patio garden or allotment? And who can say a cottage garden isn't a cottage garden unless it has a path, a tree, a seat, a vegetable patch and some topiary?

Once Ms Jennett got away from the academic and on to the practical, however, her lecture took on new life. Her suggested plant combinations were smashing and her advice on pruning climbing roses invaluable. Ms Jennett was more aloof than Mr Crisp, forbearing to join us during breaks or for the refectory lunch, but she was friendly enough when approached for help at the end of the day.

If Charlotte Power, of Writtle Agricultural College, Essex, has a fault it is that she is just too friendly. With only two hours, rather than a whole day, to get her message across, she was dangerously easy to divert during her "Tree and Shrub Planting" demonstration for the RHS.

This session was in a totally different league to the fun of Capel and formality of Chelsea: it was 100 per cent practical. Mr Crisp had worn New Man beige to address an audience clad in casual slacks and skirts; Ms Jennett had a brooched suit that complemented the designer sweaters of her flock. Ms Power appeared in cords, sloppy joe and muddy ankle boots for a class held in a glasshouse furnished with scruffy lecture room chairs. Her 20 middle-aged students came in gilets, jeans and wellies.

The key to this demonstration was audience participation, which is great if you have a specific question but exasperating when the inevitable show-off decides he'd rather give the lecture than learn from it. After a brief session indoors, we trooped outside to watch Ms Power dig a hole and plant her tree, before touring the college grounds at breakneck speed while she criticised nearly every tree — at one point pausing to perform minor surgery.

This was easily the most informative session and, at only £4 for RHS members, spectacular value.

☐ *Courses by* Gardening from Which? *cost £49.50, and future sessions include one on winter colour at Cambridge University on February 20, 1994. Details from Beryl Adkin on 0800 252100.*

☐ *English Gardening School day courses cost £63.45. Future seminars include "Roses Old and New", "Down-to-Earth Gardening" and "The Mixed Border", all next March. Details from the school on 071-352 4347.*

☐ *The RHS runs courses and lectures at several centres around the country. The Writtle college holds demonstrations every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning; price £10, with a discount on Wednesdays for RHS members. Details from the horticulture faculty on 0245 420456.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Pick flowers off winter iris* (Iris unguicularis).
- *Weed, clear and mulch around the bases of fruit trees and bushes.*
- *Make sure that the glass in greenhouses and conservatories is clean so that plants get as much light as possible.*
- *Plant trees and shrubs, provided the ground is neither waterlogged nor frozen.*
- *Check stored fruit and vegetables for signs of decay.*

Winter leaves well worth turning

Gardening books have cropped well this year. Here is a selection

I almost wish for a prolonged spell of bad weather to let me stay indoors, snuggled up in an armchair, with this year's crop of gardening books. I have never seen such outstanding titles in every category at one time.

I was pleased to see a practical understanding of gardening returning to the shelves. *Plant Life*, by Susan Berry and Steve Bradley (Collins and Brown, £16.99), integrates an introduction to garden botany with practical gardening. *Gardening Naturally*, by Anne Reilly (Prion, £14.95), shows how to make a successful organic garden, step by step. And *The Cottage Gardener's Companion*, from the Cottage Garden Society (David and Charles, £16.99), lists the best cultivars, modern and old-fashioned, with informative cultivation tips, planting ideas and associations.

Although Joseph Hudak's *Gardening with Perennials Month by Month* (Timber Press, £47.25 including p&p from the United States) originated in Massachusetts, it gives a fresh and well-described repertory of perennials perfectly relevant to the British climate and soil. Roger Phillips and Martin Rix's *Vegetables* (Pan, £17.50) gives a brilliantly rich and informative investigation into the vegetable life of other countries and cultures.

The Garden Makers: Great Traditions of Garden Design from 1600 to the Present Day (Pavilion, £25) is an illustrated survey of garden landscaping by George Plumtre.

For those who fancy restyling their gardens, Mary Keen offers an imaginative portfolio of ideas within a reasonable budget in *Decorate Your Garden* (Conran Octopus, £17.99).

A stunningly photographed descriptive essay about the makeshift gardens of the poor and homeless around New York City, *Transitory Gardens, Uprooted Lives*, by Diana Balmori and Margaret Morton (Yale University Press, £20), shows how strong is the urge to grow plants and beautify one's surroundings. This deeply moving account of gardening in the face of adversity is a triumph of hope, opportunism and recycling.



At £16.99, this book is among the best

I have always been disappointed by garden anthologies, which rely too heavily on well-known classics and doggerel, but John Dixon-Hunt breaks the mould with the range and depth of his selection in *The Oxford Book of Garden Verse* (£17.95). For lighter reading, try Hugh Johnson's *Tradescant's Diary* (Mitchell Beazley, £13.99), a collection of his pieces for the Royal Horticultural Society's magazine. Lady Wardington has anthologised useful tips from well-known gardeners in *Super Hints for Gardeners* (Michael Joseph, £8.99), and there is a great deal of practical value in the Christopher Lloyd's anthologised *In My Garden* (Bloomsbury, £16.99), which is so interestingly written that you hardly realise you are learning.

Combining armchair travel with gardening is a fine winter pastime. *The World Heritage of Gardens* (Thames and Hudson, £24.95) is a splendid compendium which gives you a crash course in comparative garden history with examples ancient and modern from all around the world, including little-known Slavonic gardens of great splendour.

Vivian Russell's sumptuous *Gardens of the Riviera* (Little Brown, £25) provides an intimate and well-researched glimpse into the varied nature of this gardener's particular honeypot (and will be serialised in the Weekend section of *The Times* from next Saturday).

The Gardens of Spain, by Consuelo Correcher (Abrams, £35), dispels the idea that Moorish Alhambra in Granada is the only Spanish garden of value.

The first of four volumes of Geoffrey Jellicoe's writings, *Soundings* (Garden Art Press/Antique Collectors' Club, £35) contains a thoughtful revision of his seminal Italian expedition of the early 1920s and his later work on baroque Austrian gardens — writing alive with the insight and generosity of spirit of this remarkable landscape designer.

Some books already featured in this column this year deserve another mention, notably the late Arthur Hellyer's *Comprehensive Encyclopedia* (Hamlyn, £14.99) and Rosemary Verey's *Garden Planting Plans* (Francis Lincoln, £18.99), and Joan Morgan's *Book of Apples* (Ebury, £19.99).

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

THE TIMES AND LAY & WHEELER CHRISTMAS WINE READER OFFER



Delicious selected wines delivered direct to your door by special courier

Three-bottle orders are gift-wrapped and can be delivered to friends with a greetings card message

Cheers to a merry Christmas

THIS year, for *The Times* seasonal selection of wines to drink at home, or to send as festive wrapped gifts to friends, we have enlisted the help of Lay & Wheeler of Colchester, one of Britain's most respected wine merchants.

The wines we have chosen are special, and not available in any supermarket or high-street off-licence. They are from the latest vintages, and bottled by the vintner, a guarantee of authenticity.

Here is our selection:

● **Three bottles of New Wave Whites in a gift box, £19.95**
1992 Domaine de Rieux, Pierre Grassa, Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne; 1992 Domaine Virginie sur lie, Vin de Pays d'Oc; and 1993 Semillon/Chardonnay, Western Ridge, Australia.
These three wines reflect the best of winemaking: a whistle-clean, fresh white from Gascony, a splendid fruit-laden wine from Languedoc, and a brilliant Australian white.

● **Three bottles of French Regional Reds in a gift box, £23.95**
1992 Beaujolais Villages, Clos de la Fief; 1990 Côtes du Rhône-Villages, Paul Durieu; and 1990 Château Miot, Bordeaux
These are wines from the classic regions of France and will complement the rich flavours of traditional Christmas cooking. We have selected a juicy, lip-smacking Beaujolais to accompany the ham, a smooth, mid-weight claret to serve with the turkey, and a sturdy Rhône to enjoy, well, at anytime.

● **Six-bottle mixed case, £35.90**
This case contains one of each of the three New Wave Whites and one of each of the French Regional Reds. A superb section for family gatherings.

● **12-bottle mixed case, £65.75**
This case contains two each of the selected wines shown above.
And a bonus! You save £10 when you order two 12-bottle cases for delivery to the same address at £121.50 inclusive.

Orders will normally be dispatched within seven days. You may send cases direct to relatives or friends, and for this purpose the three-bottle cases are packed in decorative gift boxes. You can even write a message, which Lay & Wheeler will include on a greetings card.

HOW TO ORDER YOUR WINES

By post: please send the coupon with remittance to: *The Times* Christmas Wine Offer, Lay & Wheeler, FREEPOST, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester CO1 1BR.

By phone: Credit cardholders can order direct on 0206 767670.

By fax: Credit cardholders may also order by fax on 0206 560002.

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS WINE OFFER ORDER COUPON

Please send me:

..... 3-bottle White case(s) (Code WW3) @ £19.95 each
..... 3-bottle Red case(s) (Code FR3) @ £23.95 each
..... 6-bottle Mixed case(s) (Code WR6) @ £35.90 each
..... 12-bottle Mixed case(s) (Code WR12) @ £65.75 each
(Prices include package, courier delivery and VAT)

NAME
ADDRESS
..... POSTCODE

I enclose my cheque made payable The Times *Christmas Wine Offer*
Value £ Cheque number
(Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Access/Visa/Amex card number

Expiry date/.....
Signature

Delivery address, if different to that on the left:
NAME
ADDRESS
..... POSTCODE
Message, if any
.....
.....
Date to be received by
(Delivery will not be more than five working days ahead of this)

Please post coupon and remittance to:
***The Times* Christmas Wine Offer,**
Lay & Wheeler, FREEPOST, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex CO1 1BR

Last date for receipt of orders for Christmas delivery: December 16

Offer valid within mainland UK only. Quotations for other destinations on request. In the event of non-availability, *The Times* reserves the right to substitute a wine of equivalent style and equal value. Offer closes December 31, 1993.

Catwalk contenders

Janet Impey previews 'The Clothes Show Live' at Birmingham starting today

THE Birmingham National Exhibition Centre is the place to be in the coming week for fashion in action. Designers and manufacturers are showing their wares and "The Clothes Show Live" will select designs from among the hundreds available to present on its continuous catwalk shows, graced by leading models such as Naomi Campbell.

Among the onlookers will be those whose interest is focused more closely on the models than on the clothes: these are the aspiring models. Last week 88 finalists were selected from among about 600 amateur models who walked the catwalk in front of thousands of onlookers gathered in Birmingham's Centenary Square. The BBC *Clothes Show* team selected the finalists. Presenter and designer Jeff Banks says: "People travelled from as far as Inverness or Hastings, then queued for hours, just for a few seconds on the catwalk. The finalists were so good that we have asked them to model in their own special fashion show tomorrow evening, and we have invited the model agency fashion scouts to have the front seats."



Model finalist Scarlett Mehegan



Model inspiration Naomi Campbell

Among the finalists is 22-year-old Keith Pawlak, a carpenter from Salisbury, Wiltshire. He attributes his adventurous fashion outlook to his Maltese mother. "I grew up appreciating good clothes because my mum always bought us children really nice clothes. She always wears designer clothes and encourages me to go for quality, not quantity." His red jacket, bought in Malta, and yellow jeans from Versace, are part of a ploy to get himself noticed by a model agency. "This is a chance in a lifetime," he says. "Whatever the outcome, it may boost my confidence enough to approach a model agency."

Scarlett Mehegan, 21, from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, also has high hopes. For last Sunday's catwalk presentation, she adapted a second-hand dress into a figure-hugging lacy mini, which won the approval of the audience and the *Clothes Show* presenters. "All my clothes are very individual because I alter them to suit me, or I'll put unusual combinations of layers together," she says. "I like to experiment with different colours and styles, but because I buy from second-hand shops, none of my clothes cost more than a fiver.

"I think I could handle being a professional model. The truth is, I'm a bit of a show-off, and tomorrow I'm going out there determined to make an impression."

One of the talent scouts they will both have to impress is Fiona Ellis from Models One, a leading model agency, who says: "I shall be looking for fresh-faced, healthy looking young people. Obviously, height is important — 5ft 8in for girls and at least 6ft for the men — and their bodies must be well proportioned. They do have to have the physical attributes but that doesn't mean that girls must be incredibly skinny or have drop-dead stunning looks. Some of the plainest girls make the greatest models because they are incredibly photogenic. They also must have a personality which helps to bring something special to the catwalk."

Miss Ellis will allow for nerves and lack of experience on the night. "But someone with a bit of character will have the confidence to pull it off," she says.

She might also have added that modelling is not all television and glamour, but rather a hard slog. Ask any of the 42 professional catwalk models who, by the time the last show has ended, among them will have endured 15,750 outfit changes and will have walked a total of 36 miles.

That's show business.

● *"Clothes Show Live" is at the Birmingham NEC, Dec 11-16. The "Search for Models Fashion Show" is at 7pm on Sun, Dec 12. Call 021-767 4444 to book and reserve fashion theatre tickets. Weekend tickets including admission and fashion show, £15. Weekday tickets, exhibition only, £7.50; fashion show, optional, £7.50. Concessions for senior citizens, children and groups.*

NEWSTEAM



Would-be model Keith Pawlak, a carpenter, attributes his fashion outlook to his Maltese mother

vices & VIRTUES

Edward Marriott asks public figures to confess their sins and celebrate their saving graces



NIGEL PLANER
Actor

1st Envy: I find this list of sins lacking. Where's self-pity? And, most important, where's manipulating others by deception? That's the result of envy. That's what I do a lot. I manipulate others to think I'm envious of them by pretending to be a really nice bloke.

2nd Avarice: This means I want more money. Not that I want a Porsche; I'm one of those pompous people who say, "Hell, what else could have been done with the money that bought that Porsche?", as if I could have spent it better. I don't crave a Porsche, just spending power.

3rd Pride: I'd like to be able to wear Armani clothes, and have hundreds of women hanging on my every word, but pride makes me say, "No, it's more attractive to be rather overweight and slightly pathetic."

4th Wrath: We're all led to believe that the expression of our wrath is not really a sin, it's the constipation of wrath that is the sin. I have a lot of wrath, but it's not necessarily expressed openly.

5th Gluttony: I'm a Thatcher-years, boom-and-bust glutton. When I'm feeling OK I'll be carried away with the power of it, and smoke hundreds of cigarettes and drink a lot and imagine that I'm not going to die. I'm a glutton for attention, too. I'm also a glutton for punishment. Other people's.

6th Lust: The other day I saw some porn films; they were funny and dead sexy, and because they'd been written and directed by women it felt OK being turned on. I lust after my wife, but I don't know if that's a sin.

7th Sloth: I don't think I'm lazy; in fact, I'm irritating because I drive myself and everything around me too hard. What drives people mad about me is not my sloth, it's my mania.

1st Prudence: I'm glad it's a virtue and not a vice. I tend to be over-careful, which I'm told is very annoying.

2nd Justice: I have an overly strong sense of justice which is impractical. I can remember my mum saying, "Life's not fair", since I was always checking to see whether things were fair between myself and my two brothers. They never were. I just wish I was in total control of everything so I could make it all fair for once.

3rd Fortitude: I find almost everything a hard struggle, even if it's not. In my profession, you can never make decisions based on information because the information isn't available to you in time. Fortitude is required.

4th Faith: My faith in myself is spasmodic. I have an innocent and sometimes stupid faith in other people, which I'd like to hang on to, even though they often can be such complete and utter bastards. I do not have a religious faith, because I'm too inquisitive and doubting, and I don't like it when faith becomes a maxim. Mine's more fluid.

5th Hope: Hope works as long as I can get eight hours sleep; Things always seem better after sleep, preferably with dreams.

6th Charity: I'm not the most charitable person in the world. I write cheques and give coins to buskers, and do the occasional benefit, but I try to keep a low profile because I hate the trend for self-promotion which has become a bit of a showbiz trait.

7th Temperance: I believe in moderation in everything — which is a logical negativism: you can't have moderation in everything, you can only have moderation in a moderate amount of things. Whenever I do moderation I want to do it a lot.

● *Nigel Planer is in* Die Fledermaus *at the English National Opera.*

SHOPAROUND

Barbour
THE BEST BRITISH CLOTHING FOR THE WORST BRITISH WEATHER
Kings of Maidenhead
MAIL ORDER
18 RAY STREET, MAIDENHEAD
BERKSHIRE
Telephone 0628 29283

The 'Sheila Maid'e
Traditional Clothes Airer
Cast iron Rack ends.
Pulleys and Cleat.
Screws/Plugs.
Rope
Jute
Est. 1885
pulley cord. Complete and ready to install.
(Costings Grey Metal Clear Coated)
(Costings Red, Blue, Green, Black, White)
PVP AND GLOSS BLACK
ALSO AVAILABLE
ORDER BY PHONE ACCESS VISA OR CHEQUE/PO

Kingsized Kingsize beds
For hand-crafted, luxurious beds and matresses, we'll build anything you want. And very inexpensively too. Because we bypass the middleman, you don't have to be royalty to lie in the lap of luxury.
For more details, phone us now
081 551 8000
Big Bed Co.
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY CUSTOMER CARE FIRST SERVICE
FREEPOST (EDO 5562) ILFORD ESSEX IG5 0BR.

CLASSIC BLACK CAPES
In Pure Wool and Cashmere
Created by Vera Matthews.
Co-ordinating skirts, scarves & muffs, individually hand-made.
Send S.A.E. for brochure to;
Vera Matthews, The Watch House, Barrow Haven Marina, South Humberside, DN19 7ET.

HOUSE DUST MITE ARE YOU ALLERGIC?
Asthmatic? Eczema? Rhinitis?
Then fit a DERP!
DUSTOP bedding cover.
Details:
Allergy Relief Products Ltd
Mansion House, Mansion Rd
Southampton SO1 3BP
Tel: (0703) 332919 / 586708
Fax: (0703) 332919 / 670226

THE ORIGINAL BRETON SHIRT
ONLY £14.95 +£1.50 p&p
The Breton Cap ONLY £12.95 +£1.50 p&p
The Classic navy fisherman's hat.
Sizes: 6⅞ 7 7⅛ 7¼ 7⅜ 7½
Sizes:
34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46"
Sizes 32" & 48" available in Cream/Navy
Childrens sizes available in Cream/Red & Cream/Navy
Colours:
Cream/Navy
Cream/Burgundy
Cream/Green
Cream/Red
Cream/Light Blue NEW COLOUR
2 Shirts for only £28.95 incl
The Original French Fishermen's striped working shirt. Made from 100% knitted unbleached cotton to a square cut style. So comfortable they're addictive!
Orders to: The Breton Shirt Co. Dept T93 1, 99 Watermoor Road. Cirencester, Glos, GL7 1LD
Credit Cards Tel: 0285 652351 or fax 0285650852

GENUINE NEW ZEALAND SHEEPSKIN SLIPPERS
100% PURE UNADULTERATED LUXURY
Delightful soft, off-white inside with grey cocktail and cream wool soles. Inside/ Outside of natural fleece ensures your feet and ankle in sheer ecstacy. Unisex, Indestructible and OH SO COSY. Perfect Christmas gift or just treat yourself. Delivered in DAYS not weeks.
Prices include p&p.
CHILD: 5-6-£19, 7-8 £21, 9-10-£24, 11-13-£27.
ADULT: 1-3-£29, 4-5/6-7-£33, 8-9/10-11-£36.
Full refund if not ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED.
Write: BUSINESS EMPHASYS LTD, Dept 23 Four Oaks Road, Sutton Coldfield, W. Mids B74 2TJ. 021-308-5472 (Mon-Sat 10am-6pm)

LEAKING FLAT ROOFS
AT LAST A PERMANENT SOLUTION
● LATEST FIBREGLASS TECHNOLOGY
● GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS
● INSTALLED BY PROFESSIONALS
FOR FREE QUOTE & SURVEY WITHOUT OBLIGATION
TEL 0376 347666
(24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE)
OR COMPLETE THE COUPON BELOW
PIONEER ROOF SYSTEMS, FREEPOST BRAINTREE, ESSEX CM7 6BR TI59
Please send me details of Pioneer Roof Systems
Commercial ☐ Domestic ☐
NAME
ADDRESS
POST CODE
TEL. NO. (No representative will call)
PIONEER ROOF SYSTEMS
UNIT B, 259 COGGESHALL ROAD, BRAINTREE, ESSEX

£250 FREE
Towards any piece of furniture for every £1000 spent from our trade price list; £500 free for every £2000 spent — the list is endless . . .
Fine hand made replica furniture to a standard unsurpassed this century.
Made by mastercraftsmen in Burr Walnut, Yew and Mahogany including dining tables, sideboards, chairs, cocktail cabinets, desks, filing cabinets, desk chairs, bookcases, and handmade button leather upholstered chairs and chesterfields.
TOGETHER WITH A FINE MACHINE MADE ECONOMY RANGE OF EXCELLENT VALUE FAITHFUL REPRODUCTIONS
SEND FOR BROCHURE OR VISIT 15000 SQ FT OF SHOWROOMS
OVER 1000 ITEMS ON DISPLAY
BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE. BURGESS HILL, (near Brighton) W. SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Tel: (0444) 245577

Dunlopillo LATEX LX
Also SUPER QUALITY CAREFOAMS, HEAVY DENSITY FOAMS and BUDGET FOAMS.
we cut to any shape or size!
CUSHIONS in soft, medium, firm or extra firm PLUS stockinette undercovers and fitted covers for...
■ LOUNGE CHAIRS ■ FIRESIDE CHAIRS
■ SETTEES ■ DINING CHAIRS
■ COTTAGE SUITES ■ BENCH SEATING
■ CARAVAN AND BOAT SEATING
MATTRESSES - any shape or size for ■ Bunks ■ Cabin Beds ■ Single or Double Beds ■ Odd shaped or odd sized beds ■ Four Poster Beds
Also SOFT MATTRESS OVERLAYS ease discomfort in a too hard bed. If your bed is so hard it's uncomfortable you need a SOFT MATTRESS OVERLAY...just lay over your existing mattress to bring instant relief.
OPEN MON-FRI 9 till 5, SAT 9 till 1. TEL: (0532) 678281
Please send stamp with coupon for brochure or telephone (24 hours)
Mr/Mrs/Miss
Address
Post Code
FOAM FOR COMFORT to FFC Dept TS7 401 Otley Old Rd, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7DF.
PHONE (0532) 678281 for our COLOUR BROCHURE

FACTORY SHOP
Handmade quality Sofa's & Sofa Beds
Free Fabric Offer !!!
Choose your Sofa. Your Fabric comes Free
Choose from our selection of Stock Fabrics
Made to measure by craftsmen and women
Free Delivery in Any London Postal District
No Hidden Extra's
WE ARE NEVER BEATEN ON PRICE!!!
WE ARE NEVER BEATEN ON QUALITY !!!
Also available, a large Selection of Fabrics from all leading suppliers.
Sofa To Bed
Upholstery Specialists
Factory Showroom, Unit 1 Bayford Street, Industrial Centre Mare Street, Hackney, London E8 3SE. (Close to Well St).
081 533 0915 Fax 081 985 2953
Re-Upholstery and Curtain Service Available
WHOLESALE PRICES

HOMES & GARDENING

STORM DAMAGE? FENCE DOWN?
METPOST
"The easy way to put up a fence"
RELAX
FOR FREE CATALOGUE ☎ 0800 252 550

½ PRICE CLEARANCE SALE!!
Vedonis Thermal Underwear — 100% perfect 53% wool 47% nylon — stay as warm as toast this winter — at a fraction of the cost!!!
From The Experts
WOODS of Morecambe Ltd
STYLE 1227 FRENCH NECK VEST WMS, OS, XOS. MRRP £7.99 Each save 3 for £9.99
STYLE 1259 PANTIE to match other Vest. Sizes: WMS, OS, XOS. MRRP £7.99 Each Save 3 for £9.99
BUY ANY 3 FOR JUST £9.99
STYLE 98 LONG JOHN Gently elasticated waistband and ankles for a neat, snug fit. Sizes: WMS/LGE/XL. MRRP £7.99 Each Save 3 for £9.99
SEND OR PHONE FOR FREE CATALOGUE
• Brydes • Berlei
• Chilprufe • Triumph
• Fantasie • Twilfit
• Lux Lux • Silhouette
• Playtex • Excelsior
• Bon Soir • Vedonis
• White Swan • Fawn
• Charnos • Elbeo
• Pretty Polly • Arlette
• Nymphet • Smedley
• Exquisite Form — 'Big Girls'
HOW TO ORDER: All prices incl. P&P. Quote items, rel., code, size. Send Cheque/P.O./ Access/Visa number or Tel. your card No. on (0524 412101 24 hrs. Satisfaction or money refunded.
Tel: 0524 412101
WOODS OF MORECAMBE LTD. Dept TT13 42 QUEEN ST., MORECAMBE LA4 5EL

Made to Measure **Impeccably Hand Cut**
Quality You Can Afford!
INDIVIDUALLY MADE TO MEASURE SHIRTS & LADIES SHIRT BLOUSES in your choice of the world's finest fabrics. West End quality at sensible 'Yorkshire' prices. 300 fabric samples & colour brochure FREE. Write or phone.
Seymour Shirts, FREEPOST, Dept XH, Bradford BD1 1BR. Tel: 0274 726520

CUBES SHELVING TRESTLES DESKS ETC
Inexpensive drawers, record units wardrobes, cupboards & shelving beech, white, black for home/work
Mail-order catalogue (or visit us)
CubeStore 58 Pembroke Rd W8
081-994 6016 (24hrs) also Suffolk

DOLPHIN StairLifts
STRAIGHT & CURVED STAIRLIFTS
SERVICE & REPAIR FROM £35
"BATTERY-POWERED" OPTION
UNWANTED STAIRLIFTS PURCHASED
FREE PERSONAL SURVEY (NO OBLIGATION)
0202 880468
NATIONWIDE BRANCHES

هكذا من الأصل

Marcus Binney on the white knight riding to the rescue of decaying historic buildings — plus a clutch of castles to buy yourself

Stately rescue mission

Kit Martin has embarked on a new crusade. For 15 years he has been the Red Adair of the country house world, breathing life into derelict hulks which owners had long despaired of. Now he is turning his attention to empty and decaying historic buildings owned by charitable trusts.

"The size of endowments demanded for buildings open to the public is now so large that rescue plans fail. Look what happened to the National Trust over Pitchford Hall," Mr Martin says. "Here in Norfolk where I live the National Trust is faced with a deficit of £60,000 a year in maintaining just one stretch of coastline." So now Mr Martin is applying his energies helping to reduce the running costs.

> 'Great houses ought to be preserved and opened to the public'

At Burnham Overy, in Norfolk, he has taken a long lease on a large and beautiful late 18th-century watermill on the River Burn, just outside Burnham Market, belonging to the National Trust.

The Trust acquired the three-storey mill and maltings with 39 acres in 1939, a pioneer attempt at preserving the coastline and its features. Twenty years later the buildings were severely damaged in a savage fire. They were restored, though reduced by a storey in the process, and since then have stood empty and unused.

Merlin Watersen, the director of the Trust in East Anglia, says: "The mill machinery was largely destroyed in the fire and the interest of the interior lost. It seemed pointless to leave an attractive building as an empty shell, and numerous people anyway enjoy a view of it from the coast road."

Mr Martin is now restoring the mill as seven houses and apartments. "We have agreed sales on six, and the first purchaser will move in within a fortnight," he says. Four other houses will be finished by Christmas and the whole scheme should be finished within a year.

Prices vary from £65,000 for a two-bedroom flat and £110,000 for the cornerhouse to £200,000 for the granary (details from Strutt & Parker, 0603 617431).

At Stonleigh, near Kenilworth in Warwickshire, Mr Martin has come to the rescue of a preservation trust struggling to preserve a rambling medieval and 16th-century abbey extended by a vast baroque wing in the 1720s. When Jane Austen visited the house in 1806 she found "26 bed chambers in the new part of the house and a great many (some very good ones) in the old".

Following a disastrous fire which consumed the roof, the preservation trust restored the upper floor as modern offices in the hope of generating revenue. Not a single tenant was found in ten years.

Last year Stonleigh had to close its doors to the public. Mounting debts forced the sale of furniture from the state rooms. The whole vast complex stood empty, and the roofs of the remarkable castle-style regency stables caved in. "It is a disgrace that a building of this quality, listed grade one, should deteriorate to this point simply for lack of maintenance of parapet gutters," says Andrew Brookes of Rodney Melville & Partners, Mr Martin's architects.

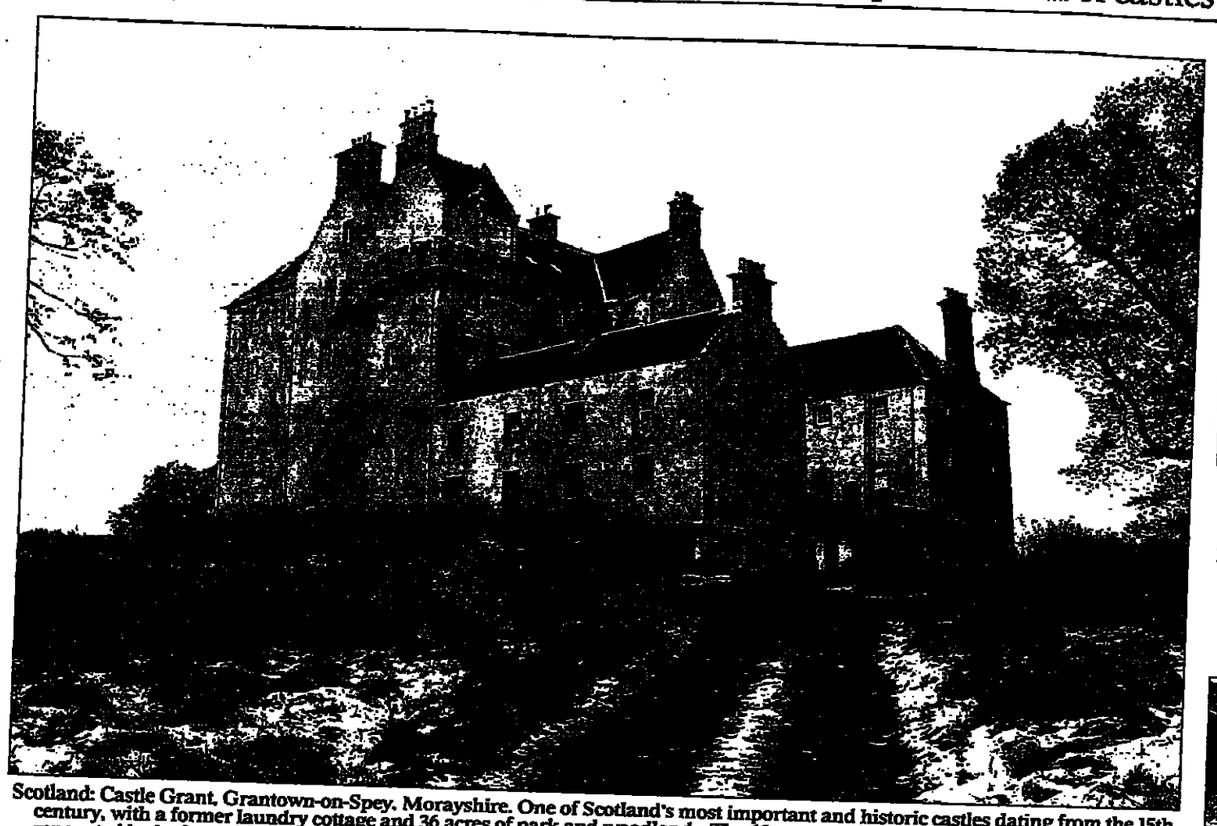
Mr Martin's solution is simple. The baroque state rooms and their contents are sacrosanct and will be open to the public. Visitors will be able to walk through the walled gardens and stables, take a guided tour through the abbey courtyards and see the medieval and Elizabethan buildings. The rest will be converted. "This is a very large complex and we will be creating a whole range of accommodation, from grand houses with five or six bedrooms to small cottages in the home farm," Mr Martin says. "In all, there will be some 35 units."

The only external alteration needed is to make one window at the back of the house into a door. As the abbey evolved over centuries there are numerous existing entrances. In the east wing there are actually six existing staircases, which can be assigned to the six houses that will be created there.

The houses and cottages will be sold on full repairing 125-year leases, relieving the charitable trust of the cost of maintaining three-quarters of the building. The trust will still retain absolute control through restricted covenants, while residents will have the security of knowing that the surrounding parkland is protected and looked after by the trust. This is important, because part of the abbey grounds were hived off in the 1950s to become the National Agricultural Showground, and are now developed with permanent buildings and roads. Fortunately these are invisible from the abbey.

Kit Martin became involved after plans to convert Stonleigh as a hotel fell through. A new hotel is now planned further away. Further funds towards repair and endowment will be generated by some new housing on the site of ugly agricultural sheds some way from the abbey. These will be in traditional materials. In all, the trustees need to spend nearly £1 million on repairs to stonework and gardens.

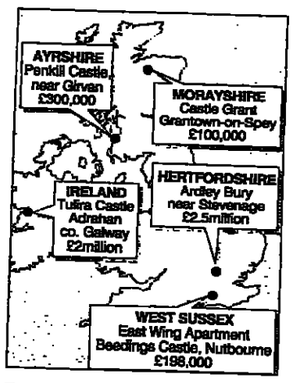
Mr Martin says : "I am convinced this solution could apply to other great houses such as Heveningham, which ought to be preserved for the nation and opened to the public but are currently in limbo because no one can find the means to endow them."

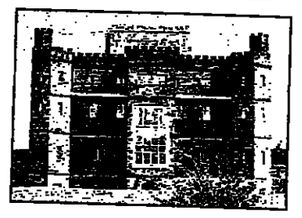


Scotland: Castle Grant, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire. One of Scotland's most important and historic castles dating from the 15th century, with a former laundry cottage and 36 acres of park and woodlands. The 60-roomed category-A listed castle was partly renovated by its former owner prior to repossession by the mortgagees. About £100,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 031-225 8105).



Ireland: Tulira Castle (above), co. Galway. Renovated 19th-century castellated house with medieval castle tower, set in 150 acres. Eight bedrooms, seven bathrooms. Tower with study, chapel, bedroom and games room. About £2 million (Sotheby's International Realty, 071-493 8080).





FOR SALE
Castles



Scotland: Penkill Castle (above), near Girvan, Ayrshire. 15th-century castle with medieval tower and pre-Raphaelite additions standing in nine acres. Nine principal bedrooms, four bathrooms, five reception rooms. About £300,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 031-225 8105).



Hertfordshire: Ardley Bury (above), near Stevenage. Grade II* listed fairy-tale castle (former manor house of Tudor origin, fully modernised) set in 90 acres. Seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, five reception rooms. Two self-contained flats, cottage, stables, heated swimming pool. About £2.5 million (Savills, 071-499 8644).

Sussex: East Wing Apartment (left), Beedings Castle, Nutbourne, West Sussex. In 19th-century castellated mansion. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, . £198,000 for 922-year lease. (GA Town & Country, 0798 872432).

CHERYL TAYLOR

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
071 481 1982 (TRADE)
071 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FAX:
071 481 9313
071 782 7828

LADIES

AFTER a day gently gliding down the slopes, drinking in the scenery and glühwein turning my attractive face towards the sun you, my tall prof, genuine handsome hero will take me in your arms and teach me the meaning of life hubs, I am a young 44 romantic and special lady and will offer auditions for this possible part of a lifetime if you are under 45 and send letters with photo. Hants/Surrey area. Box No 8250.

ATTRACTIVE female 40 seeks an attractive outgoing man who can express feelings both emotionally and physically with a sense of fun and not afraid of laughter or tears. West Mids. Photo please Reply Box 8198

ATTRACTIVE single Phillipine lady, 22, seeks sincere gentleman 25 to 35, for pen pal with a view to lasting relationship. Please Reply to Box No 8091

BEAUTIFUL yet modest, vivacious yet sincere, sophisticated yet natural, honourable yet fun, chivalrous and well spoken. I enjoy people, places, antiquities, sport, horse and family. I challenge a true gentleman between 40 & 55 to compliment these criteria. Box No 8225

BEAUTIFUL young lady, 31, Greek, lawyer, warm, funny, vivacious, slim, stylish, successful seeks similar handsome, exceptional, sincere male, 30-45, for laughter love & marriage. Photo & phone please to Box No 8245.

BEAUTIFUL bosomy bubbly buoyant booky Barbican blue-stocking (54) seeks similarly scintillating seriously studious sensual and sensitive St. Pauslian, n/s, suitor (50-70). London. Reply to Box No 8021

CINDERELLA, blue eyed blonde, slim, good looking, artistic, London based, n/s, seeks her elusive Prince Charming, 45-55, for togetherness. Please Reply to Box No 8047

CLASSY not bressy slim very attractive lady kind and caring, enjoys travel, sport, antiques and dining out. Looking for fun and laughter with similar attractive solvent british guy. N/S and G5OH. 39-45. Photo appreciated! Box No 8207

CULTURED blonde (50+) 5'7" is moving offshore after successful international business career. Choice of haven can be influenced by unattached bar exile (55-65) who can cope with sweet natured, paradoxical high achiever. Please Reply to Box No 8249

DUTCH born London based lady 47 sporty content workaholic seeks fit educated soulmate photo pls to Box No 8208

E.MIDLANDS slim attractive solvent 30 something female seeks warmth laughter & passion from n/s male, 30-50, who loves food, wine + music. Please reply with photo to Box No 8210

ENGLISH rose 54 professional happy smart busy but alone in South Bucks seeks male friend photo, tel no. Please Reply to Box No 8182

ENTICINGLY attractive 48 slim 5'6" curvaceous tactile n/s loves the arts seeks arts graduate male with generous spirit who enjoys dynamic discussion & fun 43-58 Box No 8190

LONELY in Devon, single mum 35, hard working, successful professional, attractive interesting, warm and kind woman wants new friends for fun and to learn to play again. All replies acknowledged. Please Reply to Box No 8237

LADIES

LOOKING for the lucky bunty of the chalse longue agony? An amusing, interesting London lawyer needs a special man, aged 40-50. A photo would be nice. Reply to Box No 8202

MEET Attractive, sexy women at London Single's parties. Meet 'N' Est 071 629 5834

3 HE 30's lively BA's seek bright 30+ male graduates for rave and evenings out. Please Reply to Box No 8205

ORIENTAL professional and caring lady seeks (48-53) n/s, sincere, honest professional or businessman, for genuine caring relationship. Please reply to Box No 8172

PROFESSIONAL girl own house in Richmond would like to meet normal n/s professional male of similar age (30). Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 8222

PUBLIC School educated lady, 48, financially secure and no dependant children. 5ft 7 tall, slim, blonde & considered very good looking & elegant, a talented home maker, cook & florist, vivacious, very loving & romantic. Likes both country and London life. Seeks a very special, loving, cultured public school gentleman preferably wealthy & with a good sense of humour, with whom to share the future. Photograph appreciated. Reply to Box No 8229

SINGLE petite lady, early 30's, non smoker, irregular C of E, non sporting but happy and romantic seeks real gentleman, must be batchelor and under 45ish years. Reveal photo please. Please Reply to Box No 8189.

SLIM attractive law student, 46, seeks lively caring man to share laughs life and love. Box 8233

SPARKLING blonde early 40's sharing warm easy-going comfortable life-style would love to share her wide interests and life with professional business man 40+ looking for a lasting relationship. Photo if poss. Please Reply to Box No 8230

VERY attractive classy, sensitive stocking filler looking for attractive, warm caring solvent male soulmate, 39-46 for walks in the rain, love 'n' hugs and champagne. Photo to Box 8026

WANTED for Xmas & beyond a loyable mustached 45+ male to share lifes ups & downs. Me slim blue-eyed attractive warm & in need of TLC. Photo more please. Reply to Box No 8116

YORKSHIRE based refined happy solvent privately educated feminine divorced lady 44 seeks unattached gentleman 42-52, occasional theatre, ballgown or wally-wearing event. Reply to Box No 8149

ALL BOX NO REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX No.....
BOX NO. DEPT
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET,
WAPPING
LONDON
E1 9DD

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. reserves the right to refuse any advertisement put forward for publication in these columns. The use of a Box number in connection with any advertising. Before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautionary measures. The Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

ACADEMIC & Professional people 35-65 seeking introductions in E.Anglia. Meet me for coffee at the venue of your choice, without obligation. Elizabeth Stewart. Cambridge (0223) 862699

A SINGLE GOURMET Evening Enjoy super dinner parties & meet lots of fascinating people. Call Janet 071 245 5697

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN/English females wishing to meet quality men 35 to 55. Hadi Fisher luxury ductime Tel 071 267 6065 or 081 883 0401

CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE Dinner Parties for the mature minded unattached 25-55. Tel: Elizabeth Stewart 0223 862 699

CASCADE West Country - South Wales. Weekly meetings, plus dining, dances, walking, golf, weekends away, parties and so much more! For those unattached ladies 30 to late 40's, gentlemen 35 to early 50's phone, 0495 756509 or 0222 704663 11am to 7pm 7 days.

GREAT COMPANY Dining Club Love stories start at a delicious dinner party in an elegant restaurant with other delightful single people. For your invitation call 071 278 0328.

Music Lovers
Classical Partners
For the Shared enjoyment of Classical Music. The ideal way to meet your kind of person with our personal touch and the help of the great composers.
Tel. 081 963 0211 day
0923 853826 Eves & W/Ends.

Camelot
Introduction Agency
"Creating happiness" says Miss S of Knightsbridge
7th Floor, Western House
56 Dingwall Road
Croydon CR0 0XH
Call us on 081 680 8526

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

JABUS Introduction Bureau est. 1962. Member ABIA. Nationwide professional service for discerning people. Free brochure - write 8 Holly Grove, Tabley, Knutsford WA16 0HR or Tel: 0565 652616

KISS2 Introduction Bureau ... The national service for the professional single and those happy to meet them. Open 6days always welcome Tel 0282 3364497 / 0225 868643.

LOVEMATCH Nationwide introductions made by a qualified psychologist. Free details tel 0383 740368 (24 hrs) or write 7 Bell Mill, NEPT, FREEPOST Haddenham, Cambs, CB6 3BR.

NEXUS. Unattached and find yourself wishing Christmas were'nt just around the corner? You've still time to find out what's happening in Nexus. Ring for free brochure Head Office (022374) 71704, (0223749) 21619, (0532) 445166, (061) 3676328, (0869) 38801, (041) 2211090, (02922) 761000, (0285) 831599 or (021) 4721968. Not a marriage bureau or dating service.

PERSON TO PERSON Britain's brightest singles magazine. 100th issue Bargain Offer + Free details from (Dept T7) P.O.Box 4, Carling-on-Thames, RG8 9DN

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner Tlns 0352 715909.

Dateline
with DATELINE GOLD, our executive service, is the world's leading most successful agency. Countless thousands have found their perfect partner.
YOU TOO CAN FIND LOVE
Free details: Dateline (SW8)
23 Abbington Rd., London W8
or Tel: 071 938 1011
ABIA

DRAWING DOWN THE MOON
"THE THINKING PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY"
Mary Balfour - Director
"...an agency people rave about..."
Cosmopolitan
071-937 8680 411 3111
Est'd 1964 Member A.B.I.A.

Sara Eden Estd. 1968 ABIA Member
"An Elite Introduction Agency"
Windsor 0753 830350

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

RICHMOND DINING CLUB Single & interested in wining & dining locally? 081 977 3455.

SIAM INTRODUCTIONS Est. 1985. Thousands of lovely respectable marriage minded Thai ladies. 620 featured live on 4 hour video Tel 081 457 8882. Free photobrochure. As seen on National Television.

SINGLES DINNER Parties in Yorkshire, Midsummer Introductions. Leeds 0532 704805

THAI SUAI Marriage introductions to exceptional selection charming, educated Thai ladies. Details phone: 071 590 1351

THE DINNER CLUB Singles dining in Ches, Lancs, Yorks, Shrops, Staffs, Derby, Devon and N.Wales. Now recruiting Hosts and Members Nationwide. Details (0244) 680075 or 8384644

THE ULTIMATE in small, made-to-measure marriage bureaux (S.Tel.) Est. 1960. Katherine Allen, 18 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3118

THE ULTIMATE Connection for sophisticated unattached individuals in the N W. 051 677 7969

THIS PICTURE Dating Idea is brilliant' Capital Radio. for details call 071 839 9884 (day) 081 297 1424 (anytime) ABIA

AMERICANS
Seek friendship, romance and marriage with British ladies and gentlemen! All ages!
English Rose, Dept R, Suite 2, 24 Cecil Square, Margate, Kent CT9 1BA
(0843) 290735
As featured on Wogan, Where There's Life, Kilroy etc.

VIRGINIA CHARLES
The exclusive introduction agency for people of quality and integrity
April House
Shilton Oxfordshire OX18 4AB
Telephone: 0993 840888

AGENCIES COME AND GO
Candlebarneys won't flicker out!
Personal introductions and exciting events for attractive, well educated, professional people.
Please call Cheryl Brown
071 371 5535

SIRIUS
THE INTELLIGENT PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY
The only agency to have achieved British Standard BS5750 registration.
We set the standards others only aspire to.
Call for a brochure (24 hrs)
Southern Office (071) 256 6123 Northern Office (0625) 860 924 Scottish Office (031) 225 3606

GENTLEMEN

AMSTERDAM 48, English grad, own company, incurable romantic, loves breakfast in Antwerp, lunch in Paris, looking for that special someone, adventurous, attractive, to share Europe with. Food, theatre, cricket and civilised conversation. Short letter, photo, phone number guaranteed reply - Go for it, I believe in myself, and you know how important that is. Please Reply to Box No 8238

ARE you very good looking, lady with good figure, under 37, then a good looking successful generous businessman aged 40, recently back from abroad would like to meet you for a fun relationship including weekends away. Photo and tel number please. Box No 8209

AT first glance this ad might appear in poor taste but please do not discard it. It is completely genuine. Could you be for us you know someone who could be) a beautiful woman who could be important to me? I am a widower, 45, tall, fair curly hair, blue eyes & very well off. If you're around 35 & don't see anything "wrong" with being helped with houseins, motors & other costs, please send a photo & phone no to Box 4896

ATTRACTIVE & slim early 30's career girl who has missed out sought by similar successful 40 year old who wants to set things right. I love London & country pursuits cooking sculpting jog fires part wine slow cars flat boats Photo please Box No 8185

ATTRACTIVE creative executive, 40, likes country and city seeks lady 25-38 to share laughter and love. London/ Bristol. Reply to Box No 8246

BUSINESSMAN 58 + 5ft 9 (Leo) N/S, divorced, car ferry booked for France 21st. Wishes to meet attractive lady under 55 to share a mutually relaxed Xmas & New Year in France share expenses & lots of T.L.C. etc. Caroline replies with photos. Please reply to Box No 8217

BUSY 37 year old professional bachelor, tall, fair and active with wide interests still seeks pretty unconpicated and loving girl (24-30) forever. Please Reply with photo Box No 8243



AS SHOWN ON BBC's FOOD & DRINK
THAMES REPORTS AND LWT's 6 O'CLOCK LIVE
Wonderful dinner parties for large groups of single people in top restaurants and nightclubs in London, North West England & South East England
Also weekends away and special events
NEW YEARS PARTY METROPOL HOTEL BRIGHTON
081-741 1252/1273
0978 853680 (N W Eng)
081 658 9441 (S.E. Eng)

GENTLEMEN

CHRISTMAS WISH I am a lovely 2 year old bait caste boy living with my 49 year old handsome daddy German airline captain in a beautiful 18th Century castle in Southern France near well known large city. To bring the sunshine back in our lives we are looking for that exceptional attractive modest type black or brown hair lady between 25 and 35 years well educated loving cuddly and caring lady to live with us and travel with us around the world and your photo please. Please reply to Box No 8138

CHRISTMAS alone for Londoner unless a lovely lady 30 to 44 wishes to share festivities at home or abroad in the sun. Photo please Box No 8240

COTTAGE in Cambs, Suffolk/ townhouse both lacking warmth of fond female. Prof gent 38, single, n/s, seeks genuine girlfriend to share good times, enjoyable, restorative and safe. Reply to Box No 8187

CULTURED athletic Orsino, 41, seeks intelligent attractive Olivia for Twelfth Night and beyond. SW London Box 8197

GENTLEMEN

DOCTOR, widower, 52, London area, does not atrophy, romanticism of Anton Tchekov and Lermontov, seeks female non parasitic blonde with non sardonicism smiling blue eyes for loving symbiosis, send photo please to Box No 8209

DYNAMIC, kind, caring and considerate male, aged 39, hair, own hair + business. Likes travel, restaurants, sport, cinema, theatre, seeks kids GSOH. Seeks tall, attractive, stylish lady, any area, who does not wish to be lonely this Xmas. Really guaranteed. Box No 8171

HANDSOME kind supported Irish Gentleman, full of charm, wit and cha (6ft3in, very fit slim 9**) tired of routine life seeks attractive, slim, petite adventurous lady, no ties to travel. Must love sun, sea and sailing which will hopefully lead to a permanent lifestyle and lasting relationship. Only genuine replies please write with details and photo. Box No 8244

HANDSOME ball upper class chappie, 38, inclined to take life too seriously, seeks attractive younger woman to send him up and take things down. Possible excellent long term position. Photo? Reply to Box No 8186

ROMANTIC kind gentleman interests: travel, good food, theatre, homelife seeks his lovely lady. She should be easy-going, fashionably slim with attractive long hair interested in forming close permanent relationship. Please send photo to Box No 8094

GENTLEMEN

KIND caring considerate Director, 52, wealthy, usual interests. Divorced, never seeks very attractive English rose 38+ with young children & SOH to create family unit. Reply mid Herts. Reply with photo - essential please to Box No 8200

MIDDLE aged dinosaur, n/s, 5th coast, V.G.S.O.H likes theatre, concerts, travel, seeks lady to share N Year and beyond. Please Reply to Box No 8191

OUTSTANDINGLY attractive, successful, romantic, caring man in 40's. Top psychologist and author. Generous, cultivated and fun. Only reply if you're beautiful, intelligent and very special. I'm choosy and need a challenge! Please write convincingly with photo and phone number. London. Please Reply to Box No 8096

ROMANTIC kind gentleman interests: travel, good food, theatre, homelife seeks his lovely lady. She should be easy-going, fashionably slim with attractive long hair interested in forming close permanent relationship. Please send photo to Box No 8094

GENTLEMEN

SANTA-A-Charming (So I am told) 48 year old City man is looking for a pretty pub school educated Lady 40ish. OSOH vital to enjoy life pleasures. SW London. Box No 8147

SUCCESSFUL good looking London based mid businessman 40's seeks younger exceptionally attractive ambitious elegant feminine vulnerable educated woman to share life with - all areas including recent photograph resulted in immediate. Please reply to Box No 8245

SUSSEX man, 49, solvent, slim, N/S, enjoys travel, the arts, sport, gardening, seeks a sensual, younger lady who preferably speaks Deutsch. Box 8236

TALL amusing professional man (43) would love to escort attractive, loading woman to London restaurants, balls etc. Please Reply to Box No 8177

TALL, Good-looking professional groomed 46 year old Londonbased, fun loving bride interests seeking intelligent, younger lady for lasting partnership. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8234

YOUNGISH 60ish Place man seeks comfortable attractive younger woman for comfort and exciting happy times. Photo please to Box No 8213

THE TIMES
SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER
"2 FOR 1"

By placing your advertisement before 31 December 1993 you will automatically be entitled to one free insertion.

An advertisement in the Saturday Rendezvous section puts you in touch with nearly 1.2 million Times readers just like you.

At only £5.50 per line plus VAT (Box No £10.00 + VAT), there is no better way of widening your social circle. Just fill in the coupon below, minimum 3 lines. (Allow one line for box number).

Name _____

Address _____

Tel (Day) _____

Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐

Card No: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry Date:

Signature _____

This offer is open to private advertisers only until 31st December, 1993. Trade advertisements will appear subject to our normal rates and conditions. Send to: Saturday Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, Times Newspapers Limited, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9BL.

Your Box No is valid for 28 days from the date of publication.

TELEPHONE: 071 481 4000 FAX: 071 481 9313/071 782 7828

THE TIMES

Christmas Gift Guide

ASTROLOGICAL

LOVERS? How do you REALLY get on? 10 page indepth analysis. £14.95. 0624 814484.

Astrological Posters
An A3 Poster of your horoscope. The ideal present for either yourself or your friend. Also watch those Calorie contents with a Calorie chart.
Just £1.95 + p&p @ 99p.
(each extra poster £1.50).
Send your name, address, Date of Birth with a cheque/Postal Order to.
Panda Posters, 83 Fortess Road Kentish Town, London NW6 1AG

ISIS
An Astrological Profile or 'Birthchart' is one of the most unique and personal gifts you can give to a Friend, Partner or anyone just wanting to understand more about themselves.
The Profile is approx 30 pages and is the only book written just about you.
Profile £17.50 inc P&P. Call in Write or Phone with Time Date and Place of Birth ISIS
9 Mealhouse Brow Stockport SK1 2LA. 061-476-1998

BALLOON FLIGHTS



Champagne Balloon Flights
Flights: Locally & Nationally • Gift Vouchers Available
The Champagne Balloon Company
Elstree, Herts WD6 3AW
Tel 081 905 1826

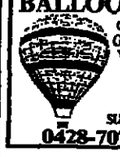
Balloon Safaris
0784 451007
• BALLOON FLIGHTS AROUND LONDON AND SOUTH EAST
• CAA APPROVED
• ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
• GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE
FOR THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Virgin Balloon Flights
GIFT VOUCHERS
0952 292185
NATIONWIDE LAUNCH SITES

BALLOON FLIGHTS

AIRBORNE BALLOON FLIGHTS. A Bath & H. Counties. Xmas Vouchers. £99. 0228 444937.

FLY over Georgian Bath with Heritage Balloons. Gift Vouchers - 199s. CAA approved. Sales & enquiries 0225 318747

BRITISH SCHOOL OF BALLOONING

CHRISTMAS GIFT FLIGHT VOUCHERS from £99 each
SURREY - SUSSEX - KENT
0428-707307


GIFT VOUCHERS BY PHONE
Champagne Balloon Flights over the beautiful Kent countryside. CAA Approved. Free Brochure.
0622 843781 or 061 399 2601

Local Champagne
BALLOON FLIGHTS
over S. SW. & SE England
CHRISTMAS OFFERS & GIFT VOUCHERS
Tel: For free colour brochure information or bookings
ADVENTURE BALLOONING
Tel: 0480 234887
24 years Experience
Certified Air Operator

CHAMPAGNE BALLOON FLIGHTS

Fly the skies in the Alexanders Golden Balloon.
For further details or to buy a Gift Voucher, please phone our flight information line on:
0252 737373
or call in at Alexanders the Jewellers, Farnham or Reigate.
Approved by the Civil Aviation Authority

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

PORT: Quarles Harris '76 vintage £25 bot. Smoked salmon 2lbs sliced £26. 071 262 8438

CAVIAR
Foie Gras
and many other fine foods
BY POST
Sensible prices from:
Highbridge,
Place Lane, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7EP

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

CHATEAU BOTTLED wine incl. claret from only £3.98 a bottle. Have a mixed case for your christmas supplies or as an ideal gift. The Grapevine 0372 386419

SERIOUSLY GOOD VENISON delivered fresh to your door. Fletchers, Auchtermuchty, Fife KY14 7HS. 0337 828369.

WILD SCOTCH Smoked Salmon. World Famed by 1st class post paid. Sliced. 8oz £9.90, 1lb £17.00, 1½lbs £24.00, whole sides approx 2lbs £21.50. Orders by 14th Dec. Ritchies, (dept 8) 37 Waterside, Rothesay, Scotland. Tel: 0700 506414

RENT A ROW OF VINES
In a top French Vineyard. Quality wine and great fun.
A UNIQUE GIFT
For a brochure ring
0205 820745
or write quoting ref ST to 3D Wines, Bixby Lodge, High Street, Swinehead, Lincolnshire PE20 3LE

C & C HAMPERS
QUALITY FOOD AND WINE
THE PERFECT GIFT ALL YEAR ROUND
and provides the ideal way to say thankyou at
Christmas
Port and Stilton delivered for as little as £32.20 inc. A choice of 40 Hampers are packed in Wicker Baskets. Last delivery 23rd December
Contact us for your full colour brochure
Tel: (0895) 832868
Fax: (0895) 835364
Most major credit cards accepted.

SMOKED SALMON from £8/½lb inc p&p. Ferry Fish. 131 Dalrymple St. Girvan. KA26 9BQ. 0671 820630 or 0466 9225.

SUFFOLK GAMMONS & Hams. Cured with draught stout & marinaded in black treacle. Phone for brochure Abbotts Bacon 0206 391212 (24hrs).

DESIGNER WINES
A bottle of wine with your name or message on the label makes an excellent gift. Lots of wines to choose from, we are established Wine Merchants importing from France, Italy, Spain etc. Own label wines start from £2.25 per bottle +P&P. Phone or fax 0225-337181 office hours for details or write to Kensington Wine Warehouse, London Road, Bath not over 18s please. In the UK only for Christmas Delivery.

TRADITIONAL SMOKED SALMON CO.
"As seen in BBC Good Food Magazine"
FIRST CLASS SMOKED SALMON BY POST
Oaksmoked, handsliced at £6.75 (inc. p&p) a half pound and from £15.00 (inc p&p) a side. Phone by 3pm, dispatched same day.
Discuss your needs for Christmas. - Order Now
Phone or fax (0273) 487122
Major credit cards welcome.

LUXURY BELGIAN CHOCOLATES
LOTS OF OTHER NICE IDEAS FROM £9.50 inc. P&P.
Tel: 081-866 4833 or 081 423 7951
Fax: 081-423 7952

½ PRICE ½ PRICE ½ PRICE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
Only Top Branded Products
From £25 (RRP£55) To £100 (RRP£200)
All free U.K. Delivery.
To Order phone Hallwood Products on
061 203 4258
(ALL ORDERS C.O.D.).
Also various gift packs including; Beers, Wine, Spirits, Confectionery all ½ price or less.

PORT & STILTON...£22.81

Scottish Smoked Salmon & Mousseline £23.83
(Chilled and delivered overnight)
Claret, Pate, Chutney & Cheese Box £25.75
Champagne in a Cooling £29.38
(Chilled and delivered overnight)
Chocolates & Champagne £29.96
Medium Yuletide Hamper £62.79
Large Xmas Hamper £101.79
Prices include UK despatch & card. Send for free colour brochure.
HAY HAMPERS
The Barn, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs NG 33 4NJ.
Tel: 0476 550 420/476/548 (24 hrs). Fax: 0476 550 777
ACCESS • VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SWEDISH Gravlax/Smoked Salmon for Xmas £22 per 2lb side gift wrapped inc p&p. Tel 0473 611704. Fax 0473 612330.

UNUSUAL hamper in gift packs, direct-mailed for Christmas. Honey Hunters: 0427 628367.

WHISKEY MARINATED. 8 Oak smoked Scottish Salmons sliced side £13.50 inc pp. Feltx Fish Co. Tel 0732 742378. Fax 0732 456825.

CHRISTMAS TREES

A QUALITY, REAL POTTED CHRISTMAS TREE BY POST
Direct from the growers

Send one to a friend with your own personal message.
* We will lift and pot a tree from our own plantations and send it whilst at the peak of freshness.
* Rooted trees in a pot.
* Trees between 3 and 4 feet in height.
* Non Needle drop our speciality.
Just £18.95 inc. P.& P.
To order ring Capricorn Christmas Trees on
0937 586101
Offer subject to availability
So don't delay- Order now.
Trees dispatched from 5th Dec.
Orders need to received before 15 Dec '93
Capricorn Christmas Trees.
The Estate Office, Stanfield Park, Wetherby, Yorkshire LS22 4AH.

SPORTING GIFTS

CYCLISTS

THIS IS THE "SWISS ARMY KNIFE" OF BICYCLE TOOL KITS
It contains - Adjustable Spanner, 4-5-6 mm Allenkeys, Screwdriver, Disinfectant, Crankbrot, Cone Spanner, Pedal Wrench, and Spoke Key - Plus optional Mountain Bikers Bracket Adaptors and Chain Extractor. All these separate tools would weigh 4 times as much, cost twice as much and might about in a large saddle bag! COOL TOOL is the high-tech alternative. It weighs only seven ounces and is guaranteed for life. COOL TOOL is legendary amongst mountain bikers and touring cyclists like would ever and is the perfect Christmas Gift. Order now for immediate delivery or we can send anywhere in the world with your greeting. Money back if not delighted.
PRICE £19.95 INC P&P
COOL TOOL UK LTD
Systems House Merton St, Middleton M/CR M24 6AH. 24hr Credit Card Hotline 061 643 8008

AIR SPORTS

A GLIDING Lesson for Xmas A £25 Gift Voucher valid for 1994 Cheque to: Midland Gliding Club, Long Mynd, Salop SY6 6TA

ENTERTAINMENTS

QUALITY THEATRE WEEKENDS £89
SEE ANY SHOW
PHANTOM, SAIGON SUNSET, GREASE
in fact...most shows
TOP SEATS
LONDONS FINEST HOTELS
(even short notice)
WHY CHOOSE BANKHOUSE?
YOU GET THE SHOW YOU WANT TO SEE ON THE DATE YOU WANT TO SEE IT, STAYING AT YOUR CHOICE OF LONDONS FINEST HOTELS
PLUS THIS WEEKS BOOKING BONUS
Ask! 2nd's Stays at over!
HARRODS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE
We pick you up in CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CAR... Whisk you off to HARRODS & hand you REAL CASH TO SPEND YES!..ITS REALLY TRUE!
WITH BANKHOUSE YOU'RE THE ENVY OF ALL THOSE WHO CHOSE TO BOOK CHEAP
Bankhouse
DO IT BETTER
(0484) 435353
OPEN MON SAT 9.00-6.00pm
SUNDAYS 10.30-4.00pm.
ANY DATE

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

A variety of really warm, fun or useful gifts & tartans/tx or kilts etc. 071 352 6306 24 hrs.

EXHILARATING gliding lessons. Gift vouchers from £32. M40 Corridor. Access/Visa welcome. (0295) 688181.

A FRAGRANT GIFT BY POST
50 Mixed Freesias for £14.00
10 Carnations + 10 Freesia £11.50
10 Roses + 10 Freesias £13.50
or 30 Freesias for £9.00
Price includes a Card + Message and postage.
Please order by Dec 17th
From: CHURCH FLOWERS, (Dept. TIM)
Longrea House, Longrea Vale Guernsey GY3 5TR. Acc/Visa
TEL 048146311
FAX 048143215

ENTERTAINMENTS

LUXURY LONDON BREAKS
featuring
RADISSON EDWARDIAN HOTELS
Clapton, Sting
Phantom, Sunset
Aspects, Copacabana
and Many More
FOR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
CALL CENTRE STAGE ON
0800 - 33 55 88

GIFTS FOR ENTHUSIASTS

BEETLE VIDEO Know anybody with a VW Beetle ? Give them the Volkswords Guide to Beetle maintainance this Xmas. Only £13.95 inc. P&P. Send no money now. Tel for details 0296 697404

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

ADOPT A Horse, Donkey, Pot Belly Pig or Dog - 700 rescued animals. Helpful heart tugging christmas gift. Tetherhall Horse Sanctuary, Jenny Walkers Lane, Wolverhampton WV6 7HR. Tel: 0902 764422/380570

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Dandy OR Beano COMICS
ORIGINAL
FOR BIRTHDAY WEEK
1940's — 1980's
Your wealth service
COMICS BY POST
SPRINGFIELD, WOODSETTS, WORKSOP S81 8QD TEL (0909) 569428

Finish letters the traditional way with
A WAX SEAL
A beautifully crafted wooden handled brass seal finished with one letter in old English script. £12.50 incl two sticks of wax in Book of England red. For more information Invoice terms write or Tel:
Seal of Approval, 3 Heathfield North, Twickenham, TW2 7QW. 081 892 9084 (24hrs).

GET TO GRIPS WITH CHRISTMAS
Have fun learning skid prevention and control on our skid pans in the South and Midlands.
½ & 1 day gift vouchers available.
DRIVING MANAGEMENT LTD
Tel: 0628 527387/521244
Fax: 0628 526821

NAUTICAL BOOKS & GIFTS
FROM LONDON'S LEADING YACHT CHANDLER
Send for free Catalogue of Gifts and Equipment

Captain O-M-Watts of London
69 Allesarie St, Piccadilly, London W1X 3FE.
Tel: 071 493 4633
Yacht Chandlers to the World.

GIFT VOUCHERS
Car Rallying, Off Road Driving, Helicopter Flights, Ballooning Steam Train Trips, Sailing & Windsurfing White Water Rafting, Scuba Diving, Murder Mystery Weekends. Learn to Dive, Learn to Swim Over 50 Arts and Crafts
For your Free Brochure with over 100 activities
ACORN ACTIVITIES, 7 EAST STREET, HEREFORD HR1 4RY
TEL: 0432 357335

Take control of our 1930s
TIGER MOTH
Biplane

Trial lesson voucher £110
(The most exciting Christmas gift available!)
Tel. 0243 528815

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

FOR THAT UNUSUAL Christmas Gift, quality Scottish crafted walking sticks ie. Tam O'Shanter. Fish Eagle. Golf Ball. Black Thorn etc. From £32.99 pp. Tel: 041 942 1116.

LIVELY MINDS? Give them "What's That Over There?" illustrated guide to all you can see from the A1 and M1 motorways. Only £6.50 posted direct from: WLP, 60 Bradford Road, Leeds LS28 6EF. Tel 0532 557846.

LOVE-FLIGHTS celebrate with a special gift. Flying lessons over Sussex, wine & flowers after. from £46. 0275 462874

LOVERS? How do you REALLY get on? 10 page indepth analysis, £14.95. 0624 814484.

PERSONAL INDUCTION Loop amplifier. Ideal home use. Simple DIY £ 142. Details 0535 633819

WHAT WINE WAS THAT. The ideal stocking filler for Christmas Keep a note of your favourite wines. Record all the details in this attractive burgundy and gold embossed diary with stylish illustrations. Size A5, this 48 page, quality bound book is the perfect gift at £4.60. Linden Publications, Linden House, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts SG8 7TG.

GIVE A FLYING LESSON!
... or gliding, helicopters, parachuting, tandem skydiving, ballooning. Give someone special the thrill of their first flying lesson with ACORNE AIR SPORTS.
• From £51 (gliding)
• 100+ locations NATIONWIDE
• Superb presentation pack
• Credit Cards taken
• New free brochure.
ACORNE AIR SPORTS
0494 451703

GIFTS FOR HIM

THE ESSENTIAL TRILBY

A fine quality hat, made in England from 100% wool felt. Fully lined, black or brown. Sizes 7, 7¼, 7½ (S,M,L)
EVERY MAN SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE.
Send cheque/po for £29.95/£50.00 for 2 inc P&P to:
The Essential Hat Co.
1st Floor
34/36 Eastcastle Street
London W1N 7PD
Tel: 071 323 1282

GIFTS FOR HER

AROMATHERAPY OILS & Candles. Natural & pure therapist quality, lifetime guarantee. Wessex Inspex Ltd., Tel 0424 830689

PRECIOUS Rose oil. (absolute), luxury bath, body fragrance. Sent in lead crystal bottle, satchette pouch £46. 0744 877834 pm

GIFTS FOR HER

BUY an imaginative gift of a year's membership of THE PARROT CLUB - a private club for women at The Basil Street Hotel, Knightsbridge, a few steps from Harrods Telephone Jenny Paterson on 071 581 3311.

JUST SILK

LINGERIE
NIGHTWEAR
OVERWEAR
All in super soft silk jersey & Luxurious silk satin
FREE catalogue.
0225 722776
SULIS (Dept Q), Hinton Charterhouse, BATH BA3 6BJ

FRESH DAFFODILS FOR CHRISTMAS
Direct from the grower to arrive Christmastime with your personal message! An ideal gift for your family & friends.
30 YELLOW DAFFODILS £8.90
bunched with foliage POST FREE
Send cheque or Access/Visa no. with your personal message to
GROOM BROS LTD
FREEPOST (TDS)
Peakes Drove, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6BR or Phone (Credit cards only) (0775) 722421 or 766008
Last orders to be received by 16th December

GIFTS FOR LOVERS

PLAYTIME
Sensual Lingerie Party & Cocktail wear. Just great bodies, 9 exciting catalogues all for £3.00 or £1.50 each. Exclusive Ladies Boutique for £3.00 (only).
Chq's & Postal Orders payable to Playtime (Dept. G), 7 Brackendale Court, Cambridge, CB1 7NH.
(0223 328333).

IDEAL XMAS GIFTS

ANTIQUE STYLE Furniture Gift Vouchers. Over 1,000 items on display of antique style furniture to choose from. Prices from £100 to £7500. Prices are backed by price promise guarantee. British Antique Replicas 0444 245677 Nr Brighton.

DRIED FLOWER COURSES Day or Residential. Gift Vouchers from £30.00. Call Jackie on 0252 785661

DRIVE a full sized steam locomotive and fulfil that childhood dream. Full and half day courses. Ideal Gift. Midland Railway Centre, Butterley, Ripley, Derbys DE5 3QZ. (0773) 747674.

FLOWERS BY POST year round, 12 Carnations £9.50, 18 £12.25, 24 £17.00, 12 Carnations and 25 Freesias £17.00, 25 Freesias £10.00, 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £23.50. Card and message inc. La Neuve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, CI. Tel 0481 63082. CC's. Fax 0481 66013

GIFTS FOR HER



GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Chocolates and flowers, delivered by hand. Straight to the heart.

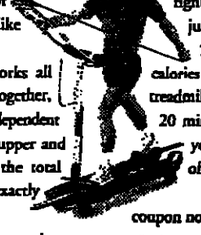


Luxury, handmade chocolates with flowers to almost anywhere in the country.
Order from your Interflora florist, or ring Interflora Flowerlink free on **0500 43 43 43.**
Toute suite.
Interflora

Now from the USA: The world's best aerobic workout.

Most fitness experts agree that cross-country skiing is the world's best form of aerobic exercise.

And nothing gives you the total body health benefits of cross-country skiing like NordicSport™ Ski.



NordicSport Ski works all the major muscle groups together, while allowing you to set independent resistance levels for your upper and lower body, giving you the total body workout that's exactly right for you.

NordicSport Ski also strengthens your heart and lungs. So while you're toning your body, you can build stamina and reduce stress.

Burn up to 1,100 calories an hour.

No other machine helps you fight flab like NordicSport Ski. In just 1 hour, you can burn up to 1,100 calories – burning more calories in less time than exercise bikes, treadmills and stepping machines. Just 20 minutes three times a week raises your metabolism so the fat stays off – permanently.

For more details return the coupon now or call us free on:
0800 616 179 EXT DT213

Yes, I would like to know more about the world's best aerobic exerciser.
Please send me my free video ☐ and brochure ☐ without obligation.
Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address: _____
County: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____
Send for your free brochure and video now.
Send to: NordicTrack (UK) Ltd, Dept DT213. FREEPOST CV 2617, Warwick, CV34 6BR.
No stamp is required. Alternatively, you can fax us on 0926 470 811.
nordic sport by NordicTrack

WHY NOT ARRANGE THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Drive a Formula 1st single seater racing car around the famous Goodwood Motor Circuit. The course starts in the classroom, followed by expert tuition in a high performance saloon and finishes with laps in the race car. At the end of the course you will be presented with a signed certificate.
A fully inclusive and special festive price of £99.50.
"WIN A VIP DAY as guest of ASTON MARTIN here at Goodwood. One lucky winner to be drawn from each day's group of drivers."
Contact: Peter Gethin Driving Courses Ltd
Goodwood Motor Circuit, Goodwood, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0PH
Telephone (0243) 776118 Fax (0243) 533405

The flagship of all presents
As used by the world's navies
Give the book that has pride of place on the bridge of The Royal Navy's ships. To landlubbers, Jane's Fighting Ships is an engrossing reference volume: to sailors it's the definitive guide to patrolling the world's oceans safely. 850 pages, packed with photos, data and diagrams of the vessels, plus ranks and insignia of over 150 nations. Beautifully hardbound with buckram covers. This 12½" x 8½" volume costs £145 plus delivery to suit you. Money refunded if not delighted.
8000+ ships 4000+ pictures
JANE'S 1993-94
To order by credit card phone Kelly Davis during office hours.
081-763 1030

A day of Pampering at
Harrods KNIGHTSBRIDGE

and other luxury hair and beauty salons at one of the prestigious stores listed below
Jenners Edinburgh, Kendalls Manchester, Rackhams Birmingham, Fenwicks Newcastle Dickens & Jones Regents Street,
From £100.00
half days also available from £50.00
To purchase Gift of Beauty or for more information
0345 - 626457
Calls charged at local rate. All major credit cards accepted

CLOTHING



SCOTTISH 100% CASHMERE
Direct from Scotland - this luxurious cable polo sweater is knitted in the softest double-knit cashmere with intricate cable detail, drop shoulders, and deep comfortable sleeves.
Perfect for Winter and ideal for Christmas. This is our most popular sweater and is now offered direct to you at £99, saving £40 on our latest Winter Catalogue price.
Colour choice: Soft Pink or Light Grey.
Size S/36, M/38, L/40, XL/42.
The Cashmere Store
WE GUARANTEE:
- *Delivery BEFORE Christmas*
- *Top Quality - Made in Scotland*
- *Full refund if not delighted*

Please send your cheque/ Access/Visa/ Switch details with this order to: The Cashmere Store, 2 St. Giles Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1PT or phone direct on our credit card hotline.

ORDER FORM				
COLOUR	QUANTITY	SIZE	PRICE	TOTAL
SOFT PINK			£99	
LIGHT GREY			£99	
		P+P		£2.50

Sizes available: 36 38 40 42
A/C No. _____ Expiry Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Personal shoppers welcome at our Edinburgh Showroom or at 131 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire (0796-473489)
24 HOUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE: 031 225 5178

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE



EXOTICA

THE IDEAL XMAS PRESENT. A SINGLE SEATER RACING CAR.

The keys to a single seater racing car. The sort of present any red blooded race fan would bite your hand off for. They come courtesy of the Brands Hatch Racing Schools, where the love of your life, can be given the thrill of their life, by being taught the fine art of motor racing.
They'll be shown how by one of our top notch instructors, so it's all very safe but still very exciting for those in the fast lane.
And all it'll set you back is something in the region of £79. So if you really want to 'make their day', ring any of the numbers below and book them in early for Christmas.
NORTHWEST OULTON PARK Tel: 0829 760381
LONDON & SOUTH EAST BRANDS HATCH Tel: 0474 872367
EAST ANGLIA SNETTERTON Tel: 0953 887303
Booking office open Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm

Experience the luxury of choice

هكذا من الأصل

FILMS

NEW RELEASES

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

AMERICAN HEART (15): Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell; with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF TOM THUMB (12): Dreary, unpleasant pixilated fantasy from the bolexbrothers animation studio in Bristol. Director, Dave Borthwick.
ICA (071-930 3647)



Raul Julia as Gomez in *Addams Family Values*

TOKYO STORY (U): Yasujiro Ozu's wonderful, tender classic of 1953 about an ageing couple's family visit. Part of a two-week season of Ozu films.
Renoir (071-837 8402)

CURRENT

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams's Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

BOUND & GAGGED: A LOVE STORY (18): Muddled comic adventures in search of the characters' better selves. American independent misfire from writer-director Daniel Appleby.
Metro (071-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

DAVE (15): The US President's lookalike takes over. Beguiling comic fantasy, with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. Ivan Reitman directs.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE HAWK (15): Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Hayman directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE (12): Scarred recluse tutors a young outcast (Nick Stahl). Queasy drama with something to say from director-star Mel Gibson.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

NAKED (18): Mike Leigh's excellent, uncomfortable Cannes prizewinner about London's lost souls, with David Thewlis as the amoral drifter who hits the pavements.
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3366) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

POSSE (15): Outlaw blacks ride the prairie. Just an urban ghetto drama in Western clothes. Mario Van Peebles stars and directs.
MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310)

RAINING STONES (15): Wonderful slice of life on a Catholic council estate. Director Ken Loach blends biting humour and raw pain. Endearing performances from local talent.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631)

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (U): Life and lost chances of an English butler. Merchant Ivory's immaculate if chilly account of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson.
Curzons: Mayfair (071-465 8865) **West End** (071-439 4805) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057)

RISING SUN (18): Murder at a Japanese conglomerate's LA headquarters. Botched if handsome adaptation of Michael Crichton's book. With Wesley Snipes and Sean Connery; Philip Kaufman directs.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279) **Odeon Mezzanine** (0426 915683)

RUBY IN PARADISE (15): Passive young woman (the striking Ashley Judd) finds her niche in Florida. Intimate, aggravating drama from Victor Nuñez.
MGMs: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772)

SO I MARRIED AN AXE MURDERER (12): Is a beat poet's latest flame a serial killer? Foolish but breezy vehicle for *Wayne's World* star Mike Myers. Thomas Schlamme directs.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915574)

THE STOLEN CHILDREN (15): Policeman escorts prostitute's children to Sicilian orphanage. Perceptive human drama from Gianni Amelio.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631)

THEATRE

LONDON

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Religion, sex, Aids, corrupt politics: a vision of America at the edge of disaster. Tony Kushner's award-winning *Millennium Approaches* is joined by its sequel *Perestroika*.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 1pm and 7pm.

CABARET: Jane Horrocks (Sally Bowles) and Alan Cumming as the MC in the last days before Hitler.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

JANE EYRE: Alexandra Mathie and Tim Pigott-Smith in the well-known romantic melodrama. Fay Weldon adapts, Helena Kaut-Howson directs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat 3pm.

THE IRON MAN: Peter Townshend's disappointing rock opera based on Ted Hughes's modern fairytale and nowhere near as thrilling.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, at various times (1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm).

MACBETH: Derek Jacobi and Cheryl Campbell play the hell-hound and his dame in Adrian Noble's new production.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight-Wed, 7.15pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm.

MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Hawthorne's award-winning performance of blasted, resilient monarchy. Limited performances.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE: Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders together in a new comedy from the author of the film *Beaches*.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Previews today, 6pm and 8.45pm. Mon and Tues, 8pm. Opens Wed, 7pm.

MERRY WIVES: Barry Rutter brings his Northern Broadsides company — "launched as a vehicle for the Northern Voice" — down south for a rumbustious version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Previews from Tues, 7.45pm. Opens Fri, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, except Dec 24 and 31, 6pm. Until Jan 15.

MR AND MRS NOBODY: Patricia Routledge and Clive Swift keep up appearances in Keith Waterhouse's adaptation of *Diary of a Nobody* and his own *Diary of Mrs Pooter*.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Previews from Tues, 7.45pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 15.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT: Neil Bartlett's witty recreation of the backstage life and assumptions of the 1950s musicals.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, Sw1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Dec 18.



The Wrong Trousers by Aardman Animation whose secrets are revealed in a lively new display (see Exhibitions)

PIAF: Peter Hall directs Elaine Paige in Pam Gems's portrait of the great French *chanteuse*.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Opens Mon, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (without Paige) and Sat 3pm.

PLAYHOUSE CREATURES: The Sphinx (formerly Women's Theatre Group) present April de Angelis's latest: the success and struggles of Nell Gwyn and the first English actresses. With Fleur Bennett and Frances Cuka.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 8701). Previews Dec 14, 8pm. Opens Dec 15, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Jan 8.

PRESENT LAUGHTER: Tom Conti is seriously off-target in the Noël Coward role.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Tues-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Last week.

RELATIVE VALUES: Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison Fiske head a strong cast in Coward's comedy. Tim Luscombe directs.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (071-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES: Ian McDiarmid plays Arnolphe with Emma Fielding as his ward Agnes in Molière's affecting comedy.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat Sat, 4pm. Until Jan 22.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: The national tour of David Thacker's delightful RSC production (with music by Gershwin and Cole Porter) comes to London for one month.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). From Tues: Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mats Dec 23 and 30 at 3pm. Until Jan 15.

VITA AND VIRGINIA: Eileen Atkins's play based on Virginia Woolf's crush on Vita Sackville-West.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, and Sat, Sun, 3.30pm. Last week.

REGIONAL

BAGNOR: This year's musical frolic is *The Ugly Duckling* written by George Stiles and Anthony Drew, responsible for last year's enjoyable *Just So*.
Watermill, Bagnor, Nr Newbury (0635 46044). Now previewing for school parties. Opens next Sat, 2.30pm and 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7pm. Until Jan 15.



Jane Arden (left), Sheila Hancock in *Gypsy*, Leeds

LEEDS: Sheila Hancock plays the spirited, pushy mother of American star, Gypsy Rose Lee, in *Gypsy*, also starring Jane Arden and Michael Cashman. Music is by Jule Styne, lyrics by Sondheim. Jude Kelly directs.
Quarry Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 3pm. Until Jan 29.

LEICESTER: Gavin Robertson, creator of *Thunderbirds FAB* directs his vampire thriller, *The Thirst*.
Haymarket Studio, Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Now previewing 7.45pm. Opens Tues, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat 3pm. Until Jan 15.

MANCHESTER: Avril Elgar, Samuel West, Marcia Warren in a fine cast for a comedy 99 years old but still the tops: *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061 833 9833). Preview Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat (except Christmas Day) 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Except Sat Dec 18: mat 2pm, gala perf 7.30pm. Until Jan 29.

MANCHESTER: This year's Christmas show for children plus adults is *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, adapted and directed by Bryan Eleley, responsible for last year's *Elidor* production.
Contact, Oxford Road (061-274 4400). Various times: check Box Office for details. Until Jan 15.

DANCE

NUTCRACKER: Covent Garden weighs in with its contribution to this year's *Nutcracker*feast: Peter Wright's nostalgic production dressed very handsomely in Julia Trevelyan Oman's period designs. Meanwhile, in Birmingham, the Birmingham Royal Ballet offers the exciting production Peter Wright made for the city as a thank you for its support.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (071-240 1066), Fri, 7.30pm, next Sat, 1pm.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon, 7.30pm, Tues, 2pm, 7.30pm, Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Fri, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN: Lucky Scottish Ballet fans. They are getting a ballet for Christmas and it isn't *Nutcracker*. Instead they have Graham Lustig's dance version of J.M. Barrie's tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Lustig created it for the company in 1989, using a score by Edward McGuire.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), today, 2.15pm, 7.15pm, Tues, 1.30pm, 7.15pm, Wed, 7.15pm, Thurs, 1.30pm, 7.15pm, Fri, 7.15pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Tomorrow at 6.15pm the LPO's composer in residence, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, presents the results of a term of workshops with GCSE music students. The student compositions are performed by LPO principals and the students themselves. The orchestra's concert at 7.30pm, conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, opens with Birtwistle's *Ritual Fragment*, the work on which the workshops were based. The programme also includes music by Mozart (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat for violin and viola, with Thomas Zehetmair and Tabea Zimmermann) and Mahler (Symphony No 10).
Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 6.15pm, 7.30pm.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: In consecutive concerts in Nottingham and Birmingham, Richard Stoltzman plays the Clarinet Concerto by the approachable American composer John Corrigliano. Also on the programme are the overture to Berlioz's opera, *Benvenuto Cellini*, and the Symphony No 6 ("Pathétique") by Tchaikovsky. Rising American conductor, Hugh Wolff is on the podium.
Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0602 482626). Wed, 7.30pm. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Thurs, 7.30pm.

OPERA

TOSCA: The Royal Opera's venerable production returns, directed by John Cox and with Anna Tomowa-Sintow singing the title role for the first time at Covent Garden. Sergei Leiferkus makes a commanding debut as Scarpia. Alberto Cupido is a robust Cavaradossi. Sir Edward Downes conducts.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm.

THE TROJANS: Berlioz's huge operatic masterpiece is conducted by the composer's most authoritative contemporary interpreter, Sir Colin Davis. The London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus are joined by an international cast which includes Vladimir Bogachov, Jane Henschel, Ettore Kim, Gwynne Howell, Lucian D'Intino, and Robert Lloyd.
Barbican, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 3pm (Part 1: The Siege of Troy), 7.30pm (Part 2: The Trojans at Carthage).

ROCK

MEAT LOAF: A tour from the hairy rocker still riding high both sides of the Atlantic with his comeback hit, "I'd do Anything for Love".
Birmingham, NEC Arena (021-780 4133), tomorrow, 8pm.
London, Wembley Arena (081-900 1234), Mon, 6.30pm.
Brighton, Centre (0273 202881), Wed, 7pm. **Bournemouth**, BICC (0202 297297), Thurs, 7pm. **Cardiff**, International Arena (0222 234500), Fri, 7pm.

THE THE: Matt Johnson and his band; surprisingly on only their second UK tour, offer more brooding rock. Introspective but uplifting support comes from The Auteurs.
Glasgow, Barrowlands (041-552 4601), tomorrow, 7.30pm.
Leeds, Town and Country Club (0532 800100), Mon, 7pm.
Newcastle, City Hall (091-261 2606), Tues, 7pm. **London**, Brixton Academy (071-924 9999), Thurs, 7pm **Portsmouth**, Guildhall (0705 824355), Fri, 7pm.

TEARS FOR FEARS: The electro-pop soulsters who ruled the world in the 1980s, are on a short tour.
Oxford, Apollo (0865 244544), today, 7pm. **Birmingham**, NEC (021-780 4133), Mon, 6pm. **London**, Wembley Arena (081-900 1234), Tues, 6.30pm.

BODY COUNT: Rapper Ice T and his heavy metal outfit successfully invade what has traditionally been a white boys' preserve.
Nottingham, Rock City (0602 412544), Wed, 7.30pm. **Brighton**, Event (0273 732627), Thurs, 9pm. **Bristol**, University (0272 299008), Fri, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

SAMMY RIMINGTON AND THE GINGER PIG JAZZ BAND: Although born in Britain, the inspired clarinettist and saxophonist has made the vibrant music of New Orleans his own.
100 Club, London, W1 (071-636 0933), Wed, 7.30pm.

WINTERWATCH BENEFIT CONCERT: Vibesman Orphy Robinson and his band join the Balanescu Quartet, Ivor Cutler and Simon Jeffes for this benefit in aid of the charity, Shelter.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed, 7.45pm.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

BILL VIOLA: A leading American video artist, little known as yet in Britain, Viola makes large installations gleaming in darkened room settings.
Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071-377 0107). Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), opens Fri to Feb 13.

A DECADE OF COLLECTING: The Patrons of New Art are a society attached to the Tate Gallery and responsible, among other things, for the Turner Prize. They also assist financially with the Tate's acquisitions of new art, and this display gathers together some examples acquired under their aegis. Local favourites from Rachel Whiteread to Paula Rego rub shoulders with international figures such as Gerhard Richter and Anselm Kiefer.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, NW1 (071-887 8000). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, opens Mon to Jan 18.

SEBASTIAO SALGADO — WORKERS: The Brazilian photographer is probably most famous for his scarifying pictures of the suffering gold miners of South America, but he has photographed manual labourers throughout the world and this show ranges from the bicycle factories of Shanghai to the slaughterhouses of South Dakota.
Festival Hall (Foyer, Level 2), South Bank, SE1 (071-921 0600), daily, 10am-10.30pm, opens Mon to Feb 13.

FIONA RAE/JIMMIE DURHAM: Rae was a finalist for the Turner Prize two years ago and paints freeform abstraction. This is her first one-person show in a British public gallery. Durham is a Cherokee artist who works in sculpture and assemblage.
Institute of Contemporary Art, The Mall, SW1 (071-930 3647), daily, midday-7.30pm, Tues to 9pm, opens Fri to Feb 6 (for Rae) and Feb 20 (for Durham).

AARDMAN ANIMATION: This welcome display offers a behind-the-scenes look at the successful animation studios responsible for the ground-breaking 1990 short, *Creature Comforts*. Characters and sets from their most recent work, Nick Park's *The Wrong Trousers*, are among the exhibits.
National Theatre (Foyers), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252), Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm, opens Mon to Jan 29.

THE PORTRAIT NOW: This show, to mark the opening of the National Portrait Gallery's new temporary exhibition space and extensive Late 20th-Century Galleries, brings up to date the 1978 show "20th Century Portraits", and is international in its coverage.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055) Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm, until Feb 6.

REGIONAL

TREASURES FROM THE MESDAG COLLECTION: The Mesdag Museum in the Hague, built by the banker and artist H.W. Mesdag in 1887 to house his art collection, is at present closed for restoration thus freeing a selection from Mesdag's spectacular holdings of Barbizon School painters such as Millet and Daubigny to tour.
National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh (031-332 2266). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 7.

JOHN MOORES LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION 18: The most regularly distinguished of open competitive shows outside London, the John Moores is a useful barometer of tendencies. This year it highlights what seems to be a return to figurative painting.
Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051-207 0001), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, midday-5pm, until Jan 23.

CANALETTO AND ENGLAND: Canaletto worked extensively in Italy for British patrons, and also spent nine years in this country between 1746 and 1755. This large show of paintings and drawings concentrates on these British connections.
Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (021-235 1986). Daily, 10am-6pm (last admission 5.30pm), until Jan 9.

NEW VIDEOS

DOCTEUR PETIOT (Electric 15): Something different for the Christmas stocking: Christian de Chalonge's uncomfortable, boldly styled drama about a French serial killer (Michel Serrault) scurrying round Nazi-occupied Paris 1990.

GROUNDHOG DAY (Columbia TriStar, 15). One of the year's best: a fresh, humane comedy about a weatherman (Bill Murray) who always wakes up to the same day. With Andie MacDowell 1993.

LONGTIME COMPANION (DV8, 15). For all its smooth packaging, Norman René and Craig Lucas's story of gay men in the 1980s comes closer than many Aids dramas to the pain of suffering and bereavement. Sensitive acting, particularly from Bruce Davison 1990

PREPAREZ VOS MOUCHOIRS (Arrow, 18). Cheerfully ribald, Oscar-winning assault on bourgeois conventions from Bertrand Blier, with Gérard Depardieu as the husband who tries to brighten his wife's life with a string of sexual diversions. 1977.

BOOKINGS

MASTER CONCERTS A series presenting the *crème de la crème* includes, among many others, The Nash Ensemble (Jan 8); the Carmina Quartet (Jan 15) and together (Jan 11); the widely acclaimed piano duet of Duo Tal and Groethuysen (Jan 12); a Haydn-Boccherini Festival (Jan 20, 21, 22 and 23); Leon McCawley, 2nd prize, 1993 Leeds International Piano Competition (Feb 10); and the virtuoso guitarist John Williams (Feb 17, 19 and 23).
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London, W1 (071-935 2141).

CELTIC CONNECTIONS: Just about every aspect of music, history and dance is on offer in *The First Gathering* of Celtic life. Music nearly every night of the week includes performances from Dougie MacLean and Altan, The Chieftains, Capercaillie, Finbar Furey, Stockton's Wing and Gibb Todd; June Tabor and Dolores Keane. Plus week-day lunchtime talks on Celtic themes; several late night ceilidhs, children's daytime entertainment and an exhibition by eight eminent Scottish artists.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street, Glasgow (041-227 5511). Jan 9-23.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Gwen Hughes; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Kns Anderson

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

DIDAPPER

(c) The dabchick, or any small diving fowl, also applied indicrously to a person, a reduced form of *dive-dapper* in the same sense; R. L'Estrange, *Colloquium Erasm.*, 1699: "One while up, and another while down, like a didapper."

DZIGGETAI

(a) A wild ass, a species of equine quadruped native to Central Asia. *Equus hemionus*. It approaches the mule in appearance. From the Mongolian *dschiggetéi*. "That direct link between the horse and the ass, known to the moderns as the dziggetai, or *Equus hemionus*."

PROTERVITY

(b) Petulance, waywardness, or more obscurely, a bodily deformity, from the Latin *protervitas, protervitatem*; Feltham, *Resolves*, 1661: "Some deformity in the mind (as in certain naturall protervities in the body) they are seldom taking, but often begett a dislike."

RASPIS

(a) A kind of wine used in the 15th and 16th centuries, erroneously supposed to be raspberry wine, but it seems unlikely, from the contexts in which it occurs, that this was the usual sense of the word; Cogan, *Haven Health*, 1584: "Redde wine, if it be a deepe redde enclining to blacke as raspis."

Christmas Gift Guide

IDEAL XMAS GIFTS

Piste Ariste
Champéry Switzerland Whistler Canada and the Haute Route
Pro ski guiding/instruction
Children's skiing & creche.
Total flexibility with our "Pay By The Day" option.
Call us direct in the alps on
Freephone 0800 898 604

CATS LOVE 'EM
(THE FURNITURE SAVER)
They scratch it, they roll on it, rub it, sleep on it — the SCRATCHING PAD from CAT CLAWS. This SCRATCHING PAD virtually eliminates your cat's desire to scratch your fabrics and furnishings.
WRITE OR TELEPHONE FOR FREE BROCHURE OR CALL NOW FOR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE FOR DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
TEL: 081 656 8888 FAX: 081 656 8776.
CAT CLAWS, Box No. 71, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2ZZ

All the World's Railways
All wrapped up in a single volume
No other volume comes close to the wealth of information packed into this definitive guide. All the World's Railways is the professional's bible and makes the ultimate Christmas gift for the serious enthusiast. This latest edition contains 850 photo-rich pages packed with technical data and diagrams. Handsomely hardbound in buckram covers, it costs £159 plus special delivery in time for christmas. Return for a full refund, if not delighted. 12½" x 8½".
115 countries 600+ Writers
JANE'S ALL THE WORLD'S RAILWAYS 1993-94
To order by credit card phone Kelly Davis during office hours.
081-763 1030

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SMOKED SALMON
Best Quality Scotch Salmon Smoked over Oak & Vacuum-packed to ensure perfect quality
PHONE: 081 852 7362
FAX: 081 318 1439
GIFT-WRAPPED IF REQUIRED & DELIVERED WITH ANY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE. WHOLE SIDES £24.95
J.P. Davies of London Hosts Cured Salmon Since 1926.

Holme Farmed Venison
Naturally Farmed Venison for the highest quality, tenderness and flavour.
A full range of smoked, diced, steaks, joints, sausages, pate and ready prepared casseroles all delivered fresh to your door.
Write or telephone for our mail order leaflet.
HOLME HOUSE FARM RAISBECK, PENRITH CUMBRIA CA10 3SG
Tel 05396 24618
Fax 05396 24581

SMOKED SCOTTISH SALMON
The Very Best Quality
Box sliced pack £8.95
1¼lb sliced side £16.15
2lb sliced side £23.35
Vac pack 1st Class post paid. Christmas Delivery Guaranteed
Cheque with order to:
LOCHINGOWER, Kempleton Mill, Kirkenbright, Scotland DG6 4NA. Tel. 7 days 0557 330361, fax 0557 330385. Access/Visa.

READER OFFER

The Sunday Times Christmas Hamper ... only £29.99 plus carriage

Treat yourself this Christmas to a superb hamper of deluxe foods and fine claret, from The Sunday Times Wine Club. It's perfect as a gift or for sharing with friends and relatives.



The hamper contains the following items within a palm-leaf basket:

- One bottle of Château Haut-Redon 1990, Bordeaux Supérieur AOC – rich, dark claret from an excellent vintage
- 113g of finest Smoked Scottish Salmon
- 350g ceramic jar filled with English Creamy Blue Stilton
- 2 x 75g packs of fine Scottish Oatcakes
- 200g handmade fresh cream Chocolate Truffles in a presentation ballotin
- 2lb Luxury Fruit Cake in a festively decorated tin
- 113gm of luxury Creole blend Roast Ground Coffee

ORDER NOW WHILE STOCKS LAST Please return to: The Sunday Times Wine Club Hamper Offer, FREEPOST, Wantage, OX12 8BR or telephone (0235) 833732. My purchase entitles me to 6 months free Membership of The Sunday Times Wine Club. I have no commitment to buy anything further and may cancel my membership at any time. Offer open while stocks last.
Please send me ___ Hamper(s) @ £34.74 each (£29.99 + £4.75 p&p) TOTAL £ ___
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other) _____ Initials ____ Address _____ Postcode _____
Daytime Tel No _____ Where to leave if out (eg. in garage) _____
I enclose a cheque for £ ___ made payable to "The Sunday Times Wine Club"
or debit my ACCESS/VISA/AMEX/DINERS CLUB card for £ ___
Expiry Date _____
Signature _____ I am over 18 years of age.
Date _____ W377
TO ORDER TODAY PHONE 0235 833732 LINES OPEN SUN 9.00AM - 5.00PM (MON-SAT 8.30 AM - 6.30PM)
Delivery is made by a 24 hour courier service. UK addresses only (excl Channel Islands). For deliveries to addresses other than your own, please attach these on a separate sheet of paper if ordering by mail, or include these if ordering by phone, together with any message.

with a wealth of surprises! | with many surprises to celebrate the New Year *items to be danced | AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

THEATRE: the sweet prince becomes a malicious queen in 1930s Berlin; and, below, Goldsmith's other play

A break at the Kit Kat

Cabaret
Donmar

Is this the same Donmar that recently gave house-room to a notably severe production of *Hamlet*? Well, yes; and then again no. Where there were seats, there are tiny tables with cosy little lights on them and, for those with the foresight to have ordered them, bottles of wine. Ahead is a slightly raised platform, above it are pulsating white bulbs, and above them an orchestra in black lingerie throbs out smoky rhythms on sax and trumpet. The sedate Donmar has become a passable imitation of the Kit Kat Klub in post-Weimar Berlin, and we are cast as the voyeurs in attendance.

Then an almost more disorienting transformation occurs. A curled hand beckons from the back, and a figure follows it onto the stage. It is Alan Cumming, who played Hamlet at the Donmar only a week or two ago. He is still dressed in black, but not quite the same black. In fact, he is wearing a long black leather overcoat with black knickers and garters below. For a bizarre moment, I caught myself wondering if I hadn't wandered into *Hamlet* as it had been redirected by Robert Lepage or Peter Sellars. But no. The sweet prince has become a malicious queen: the club's MC and the sleazy centre of Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*.

The object of Sam Mendes's production is presumably to reclaim the musical from Broadway opulence and draw us more intimately into its small, dark stories. In that, he is about as successful as he could be. There is a sentimentality here that imaginative direction and forceful acting can and do combat and reduce; but it is not, I fear, finally to be overcome.

Cumming's transvestism gets more outrageous as the evening proceeds — culminating in a parody of Miss Prism in a frock coyly designed to seduce Canon Chasuble — while his slimy smirks remain intact throughout. When he is leering from behind his mascara, or groping the males and females undulating round him, the evening takes on the louche, slightly sinister quality Mendes clearly wants. An ode to the delights of group sex, knowingly delivered by Cumming and two girls, only needs lyrics by Sondheim and music by Weill to wink and nudge its way to classic status.

But one of the show's problems is that Ebb is not Sondheim and Kander, for all his brassy effects, is not Weill. They are pleasing, they are tuneful, but they are too conventional. Another problem is the handling of the hero, Cliff Bradshaw, who comes wide-eyed to Berlin and ends up falling for the unsuitable chanteuse, Sally Bowles. Mendes's production makes his bisexuality more obvious than the directors who preceded him, but this has the paradoxical effect of making him seem duller and more ordinary. When a gulping Adam Godley tells a girlishly bubbling Jane Horrocks that he has "never felt this way before", and starts jabbering about taking her home to America to have his baby, what can we think except that a gay man has been "cured" by love and thus happily sanitised for Broadway consumption?

Still, there are also Nazis, intimations of Hitler, and the superb Sara Kestelman as a landlady too fearful to marry the genial Jew she adores. Above all, there is Horrocks, her deb's face and Roedean vowels comically yet touchingly masking a wayward, restless temperament. Could there be a more powerful celebration of the right to be different than the title-song as she rasps it across the nightclub floor, mixing grief with fury and fury with defiance? The moment passes; but for that moment *Cabaret* seems a great musical instead of what it is, a lively, enjoyable one.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



Helping Sam Mendes to reclaim Cabaret from the opulence of Broadway: Loveday Smith, left, Alan Cumming and Charlotte Storey

OPERA

Crowning glories

L'Incoronazione di Poppea
Queen Elizabeth Hall

BY DEFINITION, another *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* cannot be just that. Many problems have to be solved, but in an opera which has no *Urtext* the most basic is which of the two radically different surviving texts, Neapolitan or Venetian, to use? Both date from the early 1650s, well after Monteverdi had died.

Here, in the first of two performances that DG Archiv is to put together to make a "live" recording (the second is tonight), John Eliot Gardiner took the rare option of playing the unfamiliar Naples score, or at least most of it. Moreover, on the grounds that the instrumental ritornellos are crudely realised and probably not by Monteverdi anyway, he commissioned Peter Holman to construct new ones on the original bass lines. Convincing they were, too; especially the one for two obbligato violas in the confrontation between Ottone and Poppea in Act I.

There were also frankly admitted imports, for instance from *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse* for the opening sinfonia. In a work whose musical text was continually subjected to adjustment as it travelled around and which was, anyway, derived from a co-operative effort, that cannot be heresy. The important point is that the power of the drama and the vividness of the flawed characters should be preserved; and they were in this version.

Though this was billed as a concert performance, the opera was acted, which will certainly help the flavour of the recording. An acoustic baffle across the back of the stage painted with appropriate figures in 17th-century style added further atmosphere.

Sylvia McNair's deliciously feline Poppea was sung as lasciviously as I have heard, and with an intensity countered by Anne Sofie von Otter's even more outstanding Ottavia. Dana Hanchard's Nerone could perhaps have been larger of voice, but she conveyed well the curious paradox of cold power and warm love.

Michael Chance's Ottone was worlds away from the drippy character we often see. His actions and deceptions also seemed genuinely motivated, his emotions as deeply felt as everyone else's, and Chance's rich countertenor conveyed the complexity of the part.

A fine, love-lorn Drusilla from Catherine Bott, and some convincing character singing from Bernarda Fink as Arnalta, Roberto Balconi — a hybrid tenor-come-countertenor with a relatively high break between the two voices — as Nutrice, Constanze Backes as Valetto and Francesco Ellero D'Artegna as Seneca contributed much to the drama, as did the stylish and astute plucked-string continuo playing of the English Baroque Soloists. Gardiner wisely let things happen when they would but still shaped the work carefully.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Slow-paced Goldsmith stoops to failure

The Good Natur'd Man
Orange Tree, Richmond

OLIVER Goldsmith penned just two dramas. In 1773, his reputation soared with the theatrical winner *She Stoops to Conquer*. Only five years earlier, *The Good Natur'd Man* had been interrupted by shouts of "low, low" from first-night spectators. This rowdy behaviour sprang, clearly, from the Covent Garden public's nice sense of decorum.

No one let rip on press night in Richmond. The 1990s audience, their code of decency having doubtless gone to the dogs with the advent of a classless society, permitted that most shocking of scenes to pass — wherein a couple of vulgar comic bailiffs share the stage with the upper-crust romantic protagonists — without volunteering so much as a quiet tsk-tsk.

They may have been speechless from mere stupefaction. The play is peppered with deliciously ridiculous lines and has the potential for lively farce: dissimulations; conversations at cross purposes; several eligible ladies and gentlemen scooting around Goldsmith's maze of a plot, surprised by sharp corners which have them very nearly entangled with the wrong partners or steering clear of head-on collisions with their elders by only a whisker.

Unfortunately, Anthony Cornish's production feels like an interminable trundle along a Roman road. The pacing is too slow. Jokes are missed. The art of caricature, while clumsily exaggerated in the bit parts, is underdeveloped in the main roles. Perhaps Cornish feared large-scale stylisation would be unacceptable in this close-up, in-the-round auditorium. But the poorly-directed performers, failing to distil human behaviour into humours (sweet Mr Honeywood, miserable Mr Croaker), lessen the play's comedy and crispness.

Naturalism, on the other hand, remains incompletely realised. The characters, without firm psychological skeletons inside, plop out of their moulds flaccidly. Few of the actors are completely enveloped in their personae and the complexities of interactions need to be mapped in more luminous detail. The period costumes are all right but Su Bentinck's set — putting modern, gloss-painted benches next to antiques — is unconvincing.

Still, Naomi Buch (Garnet) distinguishes herself, even on the sidelines, playing a servant. Dan Maxwell has a fair stab at the preening pretender Mr Lofty, and Will Knightley (Croaker) has his amusingly glum moments as the Eeyore of the 18th century. Michael Higgs (the hero Honeywood) is at his most charming — stooping to conquer — semi-dressed and standing on his head.

KATE BASSETT

DANCE

Bourne cracks the comedy nut

The Nutcracker
Sadler's Wells

MATTHEW Bourne is a master-choreographer of deadpan: his *Nutcracker* is a spoof, transformed into an ingenious cocktail of cruelty and comedy. Commissioned by Opera North and devised with Martin Duncan as co-director and Anthony Ward as designer, it was premiered last year on a double bill with Tchaikovsky's opera *Yolande* — the composer's original coupling 100 years before. On its own, though, it is good value.

Bourne's company, Adventures in Motion Pictures, performs with the New London Orchestra, which under Ronald Corp gives an account of the score that is smallish in scale but rich in colour. Apart from the music, however, nothing is as before. The first-act Christmas party is transported away from its usual cosy, bourgeois domesticity to a spartan Edwardian orphanage. There, the children cower before the severe matron (Rosemary Allen) and Dr Dross (Barry Atkinson). The production captures vividly the childhood terror that thrives there, but also evokes the frivolous playfulness that manages to bobble to the surface.

The battle with the mice becomes a dormitory pillow fight between the orphans and their tormentors. Clara (Etta Murfitt) escapes with the Nutcracker, who is as handsome as a Chippendale artiste. They arrive at a frozen lake where skaters waltz in front of a stunning stony mountain ridge, which turns out to be the crumpled edge of a giant bed sheet.

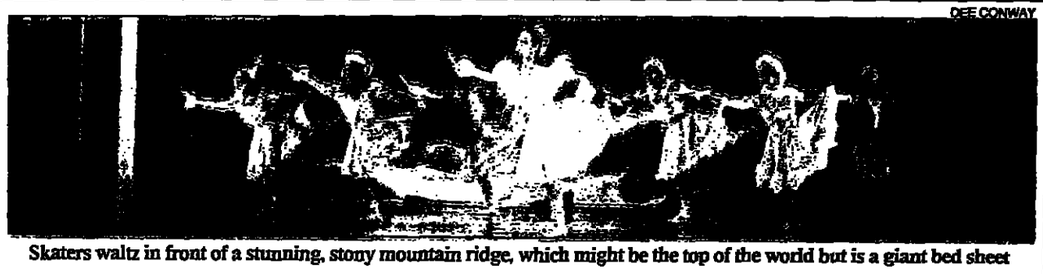
The next stop is a realm of exquisite high kitsch called Sweetieland. Its sugary denizens give each other quick, savouring licks. A collection of pinkly soft and buoyant female marshmallows bobs, to the Mirlitons music; Bourne performs the Arabian dance as a knickerbocker glory, all sleazy, languorous seductiveness. It is all wonderful. But the grand pas de deux as danced by Sugar and the Nutcracker has no beauty, any seriousness sabotaged by our knowledge that Sugar is a scheming minx.

And that is the one trouble with this *Nutcracker*. Bourne has cracked the nut, so to speak, of comedy, but in so doing stifles any breath of poetic mystery. The music soars above the contemporary style movement, the design jokes and parodies, travelling independently on a higher spiritual plain. It would be good if in his next project, *La Sylphide*, Bourne allowed space for profundity.

But I quibble. "Absolutely sensational, ecstatically wonderful" was the understandable verdict behind me. Besides, all the profits go to Crusaid, the Aids charity.

NADINE MEISNER

DEE CONWAY



Skaters waltz in front of a stunning, stony mountain ridge, which might be the top of the world but is a giant bed sheet

CONCERT

Wolff with an ear for the birds

CBSO/Wolff
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HUGH WOLFF is a better conductor than he looks. Tall and a little ungainly, he has a flamboyant left hand which, far from adding anything, seems likely to distract attention from the message communicated by the baton in the other hand.

He is, however, a musician with a rare sense of line and a finely developed feeling for colour. He is clearly persuasive in rehearsal too, since he surely could not have got the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to play for him as attractively as it did in Symphony Hall without winning its sympathy as well as its confidence.

There were passages of great lyrical beauty in Mendelssohn's Third Symphony, notably in the Andante introduction to the first movement and in the Adagio. He is not an undynamic conductor either, as he indicated in detail by the freshness of the rhythms in the scherzo and in the long term by the continuity and structural integrity of his interpretation. He just seems to lack either the will or the precise technique to project rhythms in as sharp a profile as Mendelssohn requires in the larger, more aggressive part of the last movement.

If there was a similar lack of precision in the outer sections (both based on a Bourrée by Pasquini) in Respighi's suite *The Birds*, it was scarcely significant in comparison with the avian characterisation in between — the oboe's peaceful evocation of the Dove and its flightily contrived departure; the flute's poetic soliloquy to the Nightingale over the gently parodied Forest Murmurs; the witty echoes of the Hen and the Cuckoo.

After this welcome and affectionate revival of Respighi's delightfully orchestrated essay in neo-baroque and before Mendelssohn's indulgence in Scottish nostalgia, Wolff and the CBSO were joined by Joshua Bell in Walton's Violin Concerto. It would take a more inspired performance than this to demonstrate that there is much more to it than great professional accomplishment on Walton's part, but for evidence of brilliant scoring, wickedly resourceful violin writing, and grateful acknowledgement of the melodic genius of George Gershwin, it was a most effective collaboration.

GERALD LARNER



Wolff: sensitive colouring

music theatre Mozart's
COSI FAN TUTTE
(in English)
"Inspired! Enormous fun, yet true to Mozart." THE TIMES
"The best musical in town." MAIL ON SUNDAY
"Stimulating, sexy, impeccably musical." TIME OUT
DEC 27 - JAN 1
7pm
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
071 928 8800

The Excitement of Theatre is Yours to Give this Christmas
THEATRE TOKENS
THEATRE TOKENS CAN BE USED AT OVER 130 THEATRES THROUGHOUT BRITAIN INCLUDING ALL WEST END THEATRES.
BLOCK-BUSTER MUSICALS
POWERFUL DRAMAS
HILARIOUS COMEDIES
GLORIOUS OPERAS
FAMILY PANTOMIMES
CLASSIC BALLETS
PURCHASE THEATRE TOKENS FROM PARTICIPATING THEATRES SELECTED BRANCHES OF WH SMITH AND JAMES THIN &
TOKENLINE (24 HOURS) 071-240 8800
Experience the luxury of choice DO YOU OR YOUR PARTNER PLAY FOOTBALL?

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Free CDs
Bonnie Tyler, The Stranglers, Osibisa . . . Tomorrow, The Sunday Times launches the fourth in a great series of free CDs featuring pop and rock classics from the 1960s and 70s, with sounds from 1975-80

A SUPERIOR SERVICE FOR AUTHORS
• Your Book Published
• All Subjects Considered
• Reprints Most Welcome
• Worldwide Sales Network
Please write for full details
James Publishing Company
Dept B6, Duke House,
37 Duke St., London W1M 5DF

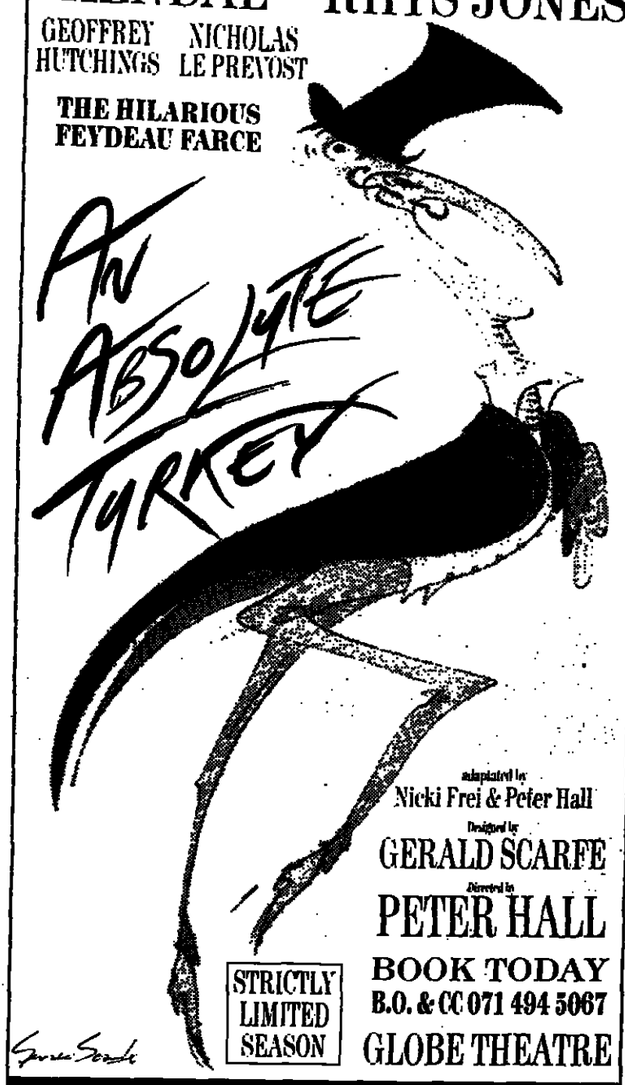
هكذا من الأصل

BOOK TODAY FOR THE ONLY TURKEY THAT WILL BE LAUGHING THIS CHRISTMAS!

BILL KENWRIGHT PRESENTS
THE PETER HALL COMPANY

FELICITY KENDAL
GRIFF RHYS JONES
GEOFFREY HUTCHINGS
NICHOLAS LE PREVOST

THE HILARIOUS FEYDEAU FARCE



adaptated by
Nicki Frei & Peter Hall

Designed by
GERALD SCARFE

Directed by
PETER HALL

BOOK TODAY
B.O. & CC 071 494 5067

STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON

GLOBE THEATRE

REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM 27 DECEMBER. OPENS 4 JANUARY AT 7PM

HURRY!

THERE'S SEATSGULPING DEMAND FOR THIS GLORIUMPTIOUS CHRISTMAS SHOW

"Gizzardgulping good family fun" Times

"Joyous" Independent



The BFG
(BIG FRIENDLY GIANT)
by
Roald Dahl
Adapted and Directed by
David Wood

SAVE £18! BUY OUR DELUMPTIOUS FAMILY TICKET NOW AND YOU COULD SAVE UP TO £18! THIS IS A STRICTLY LIMITED OFFER! Call Box Office for details.

Until 15th Jan

ALBERY THEATRE • London WC2
071 867 1115/1111 071 344 4444

ADELPHI
"A genuine triumph" D. Mail
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's most persuasive Score" New Yorker
SUNSET BOULEVARD
"Oh what a glorious Sunset" D.Exp
"It cost - Oklahoma 'Oklahoma!'" Wall St Journal
24-HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GROUP BKG 071 413 3302 (bkg fee)
NO BKG FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE
Recorded Information 071 379 6884
Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 21 & 24 AT 3.00:
NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 94
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS

ALBERY THEATRE 071 867 1115/1111cc or 24hrs/bkg fee (071 344 4444 Grps 071 867 1115 or 413 3321
"GIZZARDGULPING FAMILY FUN" Times
THE BFG
of Roald Dahl's whizzcracking story
SAVE £18 - ask box office for details
Most days 2 & 7pm. Sat 11am, 2.30 & 7pm.

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404/497 9977
Group Sales 071 930 6123
"UNMISSABLE" Time Out
"OUTSTANDING" D. Tel
The Royal National Theatre's multi award-winning production of J.B. Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"As concentrated a piece of theatrical perfection as you will find anywhere" Today
"I URGE YOU TO SEE IT" D.Mail
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5+8.15 Wed mat 2.30
Now booking until March '94

AMBASSADORS 071 836 6111/ 1171 cc 497 9977/344 4444 (No b/fee)
EILEEN ATKINS PENELOPE WILTON
VITA AND VIRGINIA
"CUT-GLASS CLASS" Daily Mail
Tues-Sat 8.00 Wed Mats 2.30
Sat & Sun Mats 3.30
LAST 2 WEEKS

APOLLO VICTORIA SS cc 630 6262
Groups 828 6188/413 3221 cc 24hr 071 344 4444/497 9977
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
White knuckle runs 10.45 daily
Tue & Sat 15.00
Tickets from £10.00 - £30.00
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 23 & 24 AT 3.00

APOLLO 071 494 5070/ 071 344 4444/497 9977 (All 24hrs/No big fee) Groups 494 5454/413 3221
"THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN!DJM
FOREVER PLAID
Mons are Xmas Party Nights! Mulled wine & meet the cast! Call 494-5070 for details
Mon-Thu eves 8, Fri & Sat 6pm+8.30
Fri 6pm all seats half price!

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE BO/CC 071 387 9629 From December 20
Daily at 3pm. Some morning perfs at 11.30am Please check with Box Office.
SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

CALL 071-481 1920
To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

CAMBRIDGE WC2 BO/CC 071 494 5080/071 344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321
"A FANTASTIC 70'S MUSICAL Abba, Glitter, Bowie & Queen meet the devil in this year's biggest cult hit musical" Capital Gold
* HOT STUFF *
"Truly roaring across the West End stage in a frenzy" Today
"THE STUFF OF CULT" Time Out
HOT 1/2 PRICE SEATS FRI 5.30
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30

COMEDY BO/CC 071 867 1045/ 071 867 1111/344 4444
IAN HOLM ANNA MASSEY
Evening Standard Actor of the Year in HAROLD PINTER'S
MOONLIGHT
" It moved me to tears. Go, and you will see a GREAT PLAY" D Mail "This play has everything going for it" FT
FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY
Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5

CRITERION 839 4488 cc 344 4444
LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION
JOHN LENNON
IN WORD & MUSIC
" The best sounds in town" What's On
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 6.00 & 9.00

DOMINION Ticketlines 081 900 1957 071 580 9845/9562. Grps 071 636 0875 413 3321 / 396 4747
GREASE
Starring CRAIG McLACHLAN and DEBBIE GIBSON
"A monster hit" Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
STANDING ROOM AVAILABLE DAILY

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 494 5001/344 4444/240 7200/379 9901 Grps 831 8625/494 5454
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 5TH FABULOUS YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 20 & 24 AT 3.00
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS
071 494 5060 BKG FEE

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee)
Groups 071-413 3321
Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837 24hrs/7 days 836 3464, 344 4444
DAVID SUCHET LIA WILLIAMS
OLEANNA
by David Mamet
Directed by Harold Pinter
"Riveting new play" D. Tel
Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 3, Sat Mat 4
No latecomers admitted

FORTUNE BO & CC 836 2238 CC 344 4444 (24hrs/no bkg fee)/497 9977 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
JOHN NETTLETON
BRIAN DEACON
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most chilling and thrilling play for years"D Mail
Eves 8pm Mats Tue 3pm Sat 4pm
Now booking until March '94

GARRICK THEATRE BO/CC 071 494 5085 (bkg fee)/CC (24 hrs) 344 4444 Grps 071 494 5454
STEVEN BERKOFF
ONE MAN
"Grippingly funny...Hilarious"T Out
" Riveting... Hypnotising... ... Memorable " S.Tel
Ltd Season Mon-Sat 8pm (no mats)
LAST 4 WEEKS

GARRICK THEATRE BO/CC 071 494 5085 (bkg fee)/CC (24 hrs) 344 4444 Grps 071 494 5454
STEVEN BERKOFF
ONE MAN
"Grippingly funny...Hilarious"T Out
" Riveting... Hypnotising... ... Memorable " S.Tel
Ltd Season Mon-Sat 8pm (no mats)

GLOBE BO/CC 071 494 5067/071 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123
TOM CONTI
GABRIELLE DRAKE JUDY LOE & JENNY SEAGROVE
in NOEL COWARD'S
PRESENT LAUGHTER
" I was CAPTIVATED and DAZZLED by its charm and fizz... A TRIUMPH" D Mail
FINAL 2 WEEKS!!
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3

GLOBE BO/CC 071 494 5067
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
FELICITY KENDALL GRIFF RHYS JONES
AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY
Red price previews from 27 Dec

GREENWICH 081 858 7755, Eves 7.45, Sat mat 2.30. Marlowe's
DR FAUSTUS. "Richly imagined... Visually Exciting" Gdn, SOME TKTS AVAILABLE

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hrs no bkg fee
RSC production of
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA
"AN UNDOUBTED HIT" Obs.
by William Shakespeare
with music by Gershwin & Cole Porter
From 14 Dec for 37 perfs only
EXTRA MATS DEC 23 & 30 at 3.00pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 071 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO 17 DEC 1994
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

LON. PALLADIUM 24hr BO/CC 071 494 5020 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge) 071 497 9977/344 4444 Serv Chge Mon-Thu/bkg fee Fri-Sat) Groups 494 5466 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge)
Andrew Lloyd Webber's "exuberant new production" Std
of "Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's Palladium Blockbuster" Gdn
JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Dir by STEVEN PIMLOTT
Starring JASON DONOVAN
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS
This production must end 15 Jan

LYRIC, Shafts Ave Bo & cc 071 494 5045 cc 071 344 4444 All tel lines 24hr/7 days (bkg fee). cc 497 9977 Grps 071 930 6123
The Joint Never Stops Jumpin
FIVE GUYS
NAMED MOE
THE OLIVIER AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
3RD GREAT YEAR
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat at 6 & 8.45
EXTRA XMAS PERF DEC 23 AT 6.00

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15
THE ABSENCE OF WAR David Hare
LYTTELTON
Today 2.15 & 7.30
THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III Alan Bennett
COTTESLOE
Today 1.00, Mon 7.00
MILLENNIUM APPROACHES Tony Kushner Tom't 7.00
PERESTROIKA Tony Kushner.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079
24hr 344 4444 Grps 930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 20, 22 & 24 AT 3.00:
Special signed perf 20 Dec at 3
LATECOMERS NOT ADMIT TED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 / CC 071 497 9977
Groups 071 930 6123
28 Dec - 8 Jan
PATRICK STEWART in A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 071-344 4444/497 9977/071 793 1000
Group Sales 071 930 6123
Groups 071 494 1671
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 867 1044 867 1111/344 4444 (fee) 497 9977
BEST MUSICAL
ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
with CARL WAYNE
"ASTONISHING" S Express
...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY BO/CC 867 1118/ 071 867 1111/344 4444
ELAINE PAIGE in
PIAF
A musical play by PAM GEMS
Directed by PETER HALL
Previewing now all seats £5 off!
OPENS MONDAY AT 7.00:
Eves 8.00 Mats Wed, Sat 3.00
Wed Matinee's LORRAINE BRUNNING will play the role of Piaf. All seats £10

PLAYHOUSE BO/CC 071 839 4401
TIM PIGOTT SMITH in
JANE EYRE
Adapted by Fay Weldon
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat at 3.00

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) 836 3464 / 071 344 4444 Groups 930 6123.
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
THE NEW GERSHWIN MUSICAL COMEDY
CRAZY FOR YOU
"IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS, GOLDMINE OF A SHOW!" S.Times
Eves 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS & CANCELLATIONS

PRINCE OF WALES 071 839 5972
24hr 7 day cc 836 3464 (no bkg fee)
From 9 Feb for a limited season
Charity Gala 10 Feb at 7.00
PAUL DANIELS
THE MAGIC MAN
with Debbie McGee & Martin Daniels
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30

PRINCE OF WALES BO/CC 071 839 5972 cc (24hr no bkg fee) 071 839 3464/344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321
THE NEW PRODUCTION OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
ASPECTS OF LOVE
FOR 30 PERFS ONLY
FROM 20 DEC - 15 JAN
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
DEC 20 & 21 AT 7PM

QUEENS BO/CC 071 494 5040 CC 071 344 4444/Grps 071 413 3321
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
DONALD SINDEN DAVID ESSEX
MIRIAM MARGOLYES in
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
Directed by PETER HALL
"GLORIOUS" D Mail
"A generous, golden evening"S.Tms
"Everything you could ask for"FT
Eves 7.45 Mats Thu 3.00 Sat 4.00

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (071 638 8891 cc Mon - Sun 9am-8pm)
BARBICAN THEATRE
MACBETH
Tom't 7.15
THE PIT WILDEST DREAMS
Today 2.00 & 7.15
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon-Sat 9am-8pm)
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
THE TEMPEST
Today 1.30
SWAN THEATRE THE COUNTRY WIFE Today 1.30, ELGAR'S RONDO Tom't 7.30
THE OTHER PLACE MOBY DICK Tom't 7.30
Meal/Ticket/Hotel package 0789 414999.

SAVOY THEATRE BO/CC 071 836 8888 cc 497 9977 (24hrs no bkg fee)
SUSAN HAMPSHIRE ALISON FISKE SARA CROWE ANTHONY BATE
in NOEL COWARD'S
"WICKEDLY ENJOYABLE" D. Tel
RELATIVE VALUES
Directed by TIM LUSCOMBE
"JOYOUS" F.T.
"SPARKLING... A COMEDY WITH REAL BITE" Time Out
Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
EXTRA MATS DEC 23 & 30 AT 3.00 pm

SHAFTESBURY BO & CC 071 379 5399 CC 071 344 4444 24hr/bkg fee Grps 413 3321
DUE TO HUGE PUBLIC DEMAND RUN NOW EXTENDED TO AUGUST 27 1994
" RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S MASTERPIECE " S. Times
CAROUSEL
" A CINCH IN A DECADE EVENT" D. Tel
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
PLEASE NOTE latecomers will not be admitted for 40 minutes

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443. Special CC No 344 4444 Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45 Sat 5.0 and 8.0
42nd Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hr cc 071 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 071 413 3321
DAWN FRENCH JENNIFER SAUNDERS
ME & MAMIE O'ROURKE
By Mary Agnes Donoghue
Directed by Robert Allan Ackerman
PREVIEWING NOW
Opens Dec 15 for a Ltd Season
Mon-Thur 8 Fri, Sat 6 & 8.45

VAUDEVILLE BO/CC 071 836 9987
Best Comedy Of The Year
Evening Standard Award
KEN CAMPBELL'S ONE MAN SHOW
JAMAIS VU
For a limited Season Only
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sat Mat 2.30 Tkts £5-£15

VICTORIA PALACE Box Off 8 cc (No bkg fee) 071 834 1317 CC (bkg fee)071-344 4444/497 9977 Groups 071 930 6123
* BUDDY *
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
* BUDDY *
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
* BUDDY *
Mon-Thur 8.00 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sat 5.00 & 8.30.
ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF
5TH FANTASTIC YEAR
OVER 1600 PERFORMANCES
BOOKING TO SEPT '94

WHITEHALL BO/CC 867 1119 /1111 071 344 4444/497 9977
BEST ENTERTAINMENT
1993 OLIVIER AWARDS
John Wells
William Gaunt Ian Lindsay
TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT
"GILES HAVERGALS brilliant adaptation of GRAHAM GREENE'S funniest novel" Obs.
Mon-Fri 8 Wed 3 Sat 5 & 8.15

WYNDHAMS BO/CC 071 867 1116 / 071 344 4444/497 9977
"A BLAZINGLY INTELLIGENT PERFORMANCE" Gdn.
DIANA RIGG
"The crowning role of her career"D Mail
MEDEA
"Dazzling, shocking, compelling, unmissable. Jonathan Kents' flawless production" S Express
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 5.30 & 8.30

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925068
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

ART GALLERIES

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1. 10-6 daily. Recorded info 071 439 4996/7 FROM LEONARDO TO VAN GOGH: MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE J.PAUL GETTY MUSEUM. AMERICAN ART IN THE 20TH CENTURY - LAST FEW DAYS Book tickets on 071 240 7200 (bkg fee)

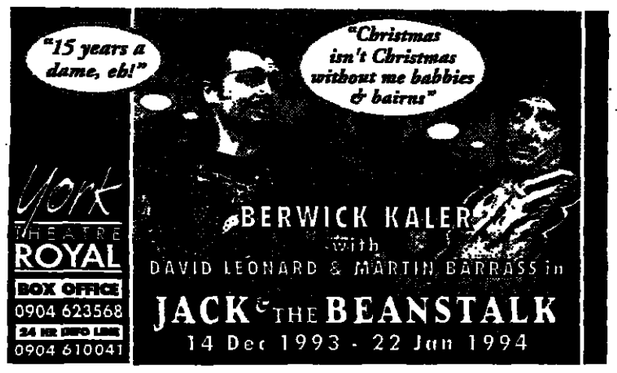
OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tom't 4.30 LOHENGRIN
Wed 7.30 DIE FLEDERMAUS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911. Tickets avail on the day. Stand-by info 836 6903.
THE ROYAL OPERA Today 2.00 & 'Saturday Special' low price performance at 7.00 low income groups only. The Magic Flute. Mon 7.30 Tosca.

SADLERS WELLS Inc cc 071 278 8916/cc 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 8-18 DEC
Adventures in Motion Pictures
"A dazzlingly imaginative new version"S.Times
THE NUTCRACKER
FROM 21 DEC - 8 JAN
Black Light Theatre of Prague
PETER PAN
"Like magic come true"Times.

New Year Celebrations & Shows



THE NEW ADVENTURES OF



The Wonderful Adventures of The World's Most Famous Puppet
For Everyone of 5 to 11
MAGICAL FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
From December 6th to January 8th at 10.30, 2.15 and 7.00.
MERMAID THEATRE
Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3DB
(nearest tube Blackfriars)
BOX OFFICE: 071-410 0000
Tickets: £6.00, £7.50, £9.50 Special discounts for Schools!
See the FREE Exhibition "PUPPETS OF THE WORLD!"
24 hour MERMAID INFORMATION LINE: 0891 323 393
39p cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times

THE BERKELEY

NEW YEAR'S EVE "BRAZILIAN FANTASY"

Enjoy the colour and excitement of 'Carnival' in Knightsbridge

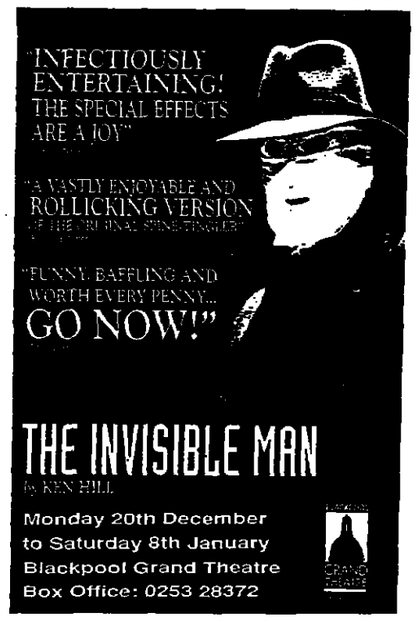
THE COST OF £400 PER COUPLE INCLUDES:-

* One night's accommodation in a deluxe room
* Champagne Reception
* Four course dinner with specially selected wines
* Champagne breakfast at 1 am
* Dancing until 2 am
* "Tableside" Cabaret
* "Fun Casino"
* Use of Health Club and pool

Tax and service included

For more information and reservations, call the Reception Manager on (071) 235 6000

The Berkeley, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1



MANCHESTER CAMERATA
Friday 31 December, 7.30pm, Free Trade Hall, Manchester
NEW YEAR'S EVE OPERA GALA
Manchester CITY OF DRAMA 1994 Opening Gala Concert
Dennis O'Neill (tenor), Willard White (bass)
Rosalind Plowright (soprano)
BIZET- Carmen, Pearl Fishers, MASCAGNI- Cavalleria Rusticana, PUCCINI-Turandot (Nessun Dorma), Tosca , Gianni Schicchi , VERDI- La Traviata (Brindisi), Don Carlos, Aida GERSHWIN- Porgy & Bess KERN- Showboat
Sponsored by Manchester Airport, Terminal 2
£127.50 (incl hotel), £55, £35, £28, £22.50, £15.50, £7.50
BOX OFFICE TEL: 061 225 8357

QUALITY THEATRE WEEKENDS £89
PHANTOM, SAIGON SUNSET, GREASE
in fact...most shows
TOP SEATS LONDONS FINEST HOTELS (even short notice)
WHY BANKHOUSE?
YOU GET THE SHOW YOU WANT TO SEE ON THE DATE YOU WANT TO SEE IT, STAYING AT YOUR CHOICE OF LONDONS FINEST HOTELS
PLUS THIS WEEKS BOOKING BONUS
Worth £m's - Yours at only £89
HARRODS (JANUARY SALES) SHOPPING SPREE
We pick you up in CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CAR. Whisk you off to HARRODS & hand you REAL CASH TO SPEND!
WITH BANKHOUSE YOU'RE THE ENVY OF ALL THOSE WHO CHOSE TO BOOK CHEAP
Bankhouse
DO IT BETTER
(0484) 435353
YOU CAN BOOK TODAY!
OPEN MON-SAT 9.00-6.00pm SUNDAYS 10.30-4.00pm.
SEE ANY SHOW ANY DATE

ENTERTAINMENTS ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 10.

Mervyn Conn in association with CLASSIC fM 100-102 presents
A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE
STARS from the BOLSHOI OPERA
WITH
The Moscow Classical Ensemble & Chorus



Programme includes operatic selections from Nabucco, Cavalleria Rusticana, Carmen, Khovanshchina, Don Giovanni, Madama Butterfly, L'Elisir d'Amore, Eugene Onegin, A Life for the Tsar
ONLY LONDON PERFORMANCE
Monday 16 May 1994 at 7.30 pm
Tickets on sale from Monday 13 December
(Prices £10 to £28)
THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
London SE1
071 928 8800
The South Bank Centre is a registered charity
THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT
For details of National Tour, send SAE to Theatre Management Consultants, 28 Conduit St, London W1R 9TB.

Royal Albert Hall Box Office 071 589 8212
VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SEVEN SPECTACULAR NEW YEAR GALAS
Ticketmaster CC 071 344 4444 24 hrs/7 days

Monday 27 December at 7.30
GRAND CLASSICAL GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Pro Musica Chorus Kentish Opera Chorus
Band of the Grenadier Guards
Baritone Alan Opie
MENDELSSOHN Overture Fingal's Cave, ROSSINI Largo al factotum Barber of Seville, HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus The Messiah, JEREMIAH CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Greensleeves, VERDI Anvil Chorus Il Trovatore, DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice ELGAR Pomp & Circumstance March No 1, Al SINONI Adagio GOUNOD Soldiers' Chorus Faust, VERDI Di Provenza La Traviata, BORODIN Polovtsian Dances Prince Igor, LEONCAVALLO Prologue I Pagliacci, JOHANN STRAUSS Radetzky March, RAVEL Bolero
Tchaikovsky '1812' OVERTURE
with cannon & mortar effects and
SPECTACULAR LASERS

Tuesday 28 December at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Grenadier Guards
THREE GREAT OPERA STARS
Sop Julie Dalton Tenor Anthony Mee
Baritone David Barrell
VERDI Overture The Force of Destiny, PUCCINI Che gelida manina, Si mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulle La Boheme, VERDI Eri tu A Masked Ball, PUCCINI One fine day, Humming chorus Madam Butterfly, VERDI Dio che n'all alma Don Carlos, VERDI Grand March Aida, PUCCINI Intermezzo Manon Lescaut, VERDI Brindisi, Di provenza il mar La Traviata, PUCCINI Vissi d'arte, E lucevan le stelle, Te deum Tosca VERDI La donna e mobile Rigoletto, VERDI Ritorna Vincitor Aida, VERDI D'amor sull'ali rosee & miserere Il Trovatore, VERDI Chorus of Hebrew Slaves Nabucco, PUCCINI NESSUN DORMA & FINAL SCENE Turandot

Thursday 30 December at 7.30
GRAND TCHAIKOVSKY GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Band of the Grenadier Guards
STARS OF THE MOSCOW CITY BALLET
Svetlana Filippova and Dmitri Romanov
Fantasy Overture, Romeo & Juliet
*Swan Lake - Pas de deux
Eugene Onegin - Waltz & Polonaise
Capriccio Italien
March - Symphony No.6
*Nutcracker - Grand Pas de deux
Overture "1812"
with cannon & mortar effects
plus
SPECTACULAR LASERS
*Items to be danced

Friday 31 December at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Engineers
FOUR GREAT OPERA STARS
Soprano Susan McCulloch Mezzo Sally Burgess
Tenor Edmund Barham Baritone Keith Latham
OnHANSEL & GRETEL, Largo al factotum BARBER OF SEVILLE, Anvil Chorus IL TROVATORE, O mio babbino caro GIANNI SCHICCHI, On with the medley I PAGLIACCI, Flower duet LAKME, Duet THE PEARLFISHERS, Soldiers' Chorus FAUST, Grand March AIDA, Softly awakes my heart SAMSON & DELILAH, Toreador's song CARMEN, Ride of the Valkyries DIE WALKURE, Quartet RIGOLETTO, Habanera CARMEN, Love duet OTELLO, Mesetta's Waltz LA BOHEME, Intermezzo CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Chorus of Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO, Nessun dorma & Final scene TURANDOT
Overture & Party Scene DIE FLEDERMAUS
with a wealth of surprises!

Saturday 1 January at 7.30
VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
The Strauss Ballet Company
Suppé Overture Light Cavalry
Johann Strauss I Excerpts from Graduation Ball*, Romantic Waltz*, Good Girl Polka*, Perpetuum Mobile*, Cuckoo Polka, Emperor Waltz, New Year Galop*, Hungarian Polka*, Egyptian March, Chatterbox Polka, Tales from the Vienna Woods, Pizzicato Polka, The Blue Danube Waltz*
Josef Strauss Anvil Polka, Waldteufel Skaters' Waltz, Waltz Espana*
Johann Strauss I Radetzky March, Bahn Frei
Hans Christian Lumbye Champagne Galop
With many surprises to celebrate the New Year
*Items to be danced

in association with BCC
Moscow City Ballet
TWO PERFS ONLY
MAGNIFICENT COMPANY OF 80 DANCERS
in complete and fully-staged productions of
SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.30
SWAN LAKE
SUNDAY 2 JANUARY at 7.30
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
"SHEER MAGIC...SUPERB...A WINNER AND I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO MISS IT"

Cue music as the lights dim for poor old Flash



It came as a bit of a shock to be told that our sheepdog, Flash, was gradually losing his sight. "Cataracts," said the vet. "How long?" I asked, meaning how long would poor old Flash have before nature realised for him his sole ambition of never seeing another sheep in his life. "Oh, years yet. Years!" the vet said. "I wouldn't worry about him too much, he doesn't have to do much close reading work."

For all his dodgy eyesight, Flash's powers seem hardly diminished in any way. Unkindly, I was going to say that he did not have too many powers in the first place, but that would be hardly fair: we have neither the sheep nor the acres to keep him fit and working every day, and it is a poor shepherd who blames his dog.

When I bought him nearly four years ago from a shepherd in Norfolk, he was more than in control of a flock of a thousand skittish ewes, responding well to both voice and whistle. Not being a born whistler, I have always shouted orders at him, and perhaps that has been my mistake. If only he could hear once again the notes to which he was trained, he might show hidden talents.

Last week I was in the Yorkshire dales, where every farm has sheep and every farmer sheepdogs, and shepherds' whistles are as common as tin-openers in the hardware shops. I have scoured Suffolk for a whistle but, in these parts, if it does not fit a combine harvester they will not stock it.

Buying the whistle was the easy bit; getting a tune out of it is an entirely different business. The whistle itself is no more than a circular piece of tin, bent in half, with a hole straight through. I know that it must all go in the mouth for whenever I have seen shepherds use them, there are never any bits sticking out. So I inserted it as carefully as a chap having his first fitting for dentures. Well, I have been blowing and sucking for half an hour now; tongue on top of the whistle or below, blowing hard and then softly, but all I have managed so far is a disgusting flow of dribble down the chin. I have had the occasional note out of it, but I have never been able to reproduce it: and when I listen to the tape I recorded of the whistles to which Flash had been trained, they sound like a symphony compared with my windy, liquid efforts. I fear I shall eventually swallow the thing, which will lodge in such a way that the contrary thing will emit the purest of notes of which even James Galway would be proud, and every sheepdog for miles around will freeze every time I take a breath. All this is torture for Flash, too, for I can see him in his kennel, twisting his head every time he hears my squeals.



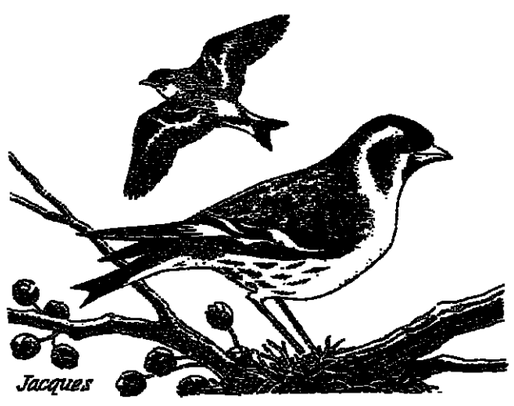
Alas, there is nobody I can turn to; shepherding is largely a thing of the past round here. Sheep-ranching has taken over, and where men used to tend modest flocks, thousands of sheep are now folded on vast acreages left bare after sugar beet, for the sheep to graze the discarded green leafy tops. I cannot speak from experience, but landowners who have let land for winter grazing to these large flock operators speak of lax methods which no man who would call himself a shepherd would accept. Not many of them seem to have dogs, preferring to ride about on motor cycles to herd their sheep. I might as well whistle down the wind as ask for advice.

In desperation, I have scoured my library for any hints, but while all give many lengthy chapters to the schooling of the dog, none give any advice on the tuning of the shepherd. I have discovered, for example, that shepherds were traditionally skilled pipe players and would take an oat straw while still green, press the end between their fingers till it formed a reed, and whistle away happily all day. This makes me feel even more inferior. An illustration from the *Book of Hours*, 1410, shows *Shepherd with Dog and Pipe*. The pipe looks like an ordinary recorder, but most striking is the expression on the dog's face, which is one of gentle amusement. Then I look at Flash as I suck and blow and generally make the noise of the tuneless north wind whistling through a crack in the door, and see only pain across his face. For him, it must be like trying to read Morse when you do not know the code: he knows from the sound there is a message in there, but he is damned if he knows what it is.

This is a problem I must solve. The vet said Flash had many working years in him yet, and there is many a good tune played on an old fiddle. I shall keep fiddling with the whistle, doggedly.

STEPHEN MARKESON

Feather report



Jacques

There is no sound quite like a flock of siskins in flight

Dazzler on the water

Last weekend I was in the watery world of the Lea valley, north of London. It is an extraordinary land of rivers and streams and abandoned gravel pits, the home of eels and birds. Miles of willows line the banks, many with thin yellow leaves still clinging to them. I was hardly at the first river's edge before I saw a cormorant flying overhead, like a great black cross sweeping across the sky.

As I went along, I kept a good eye on the alder trees, now glowing purple with the cones of last summer and the catkins of next. I soon saw what I was looking out for — a little movement, a glint of green, high in the branches. It was a siskin, a small finch from the north, hanging upside down as it extracted the seeds from the cones. As usual, as soon as I had seen one, I became aware of a dozen others. The sun came out, and suddenly the whole treetop was sparkling with them.

They took fright at something, and in an instant they were part of a whole cloud of siskins in the sky, with others that had risen from the trees all around. As they circled the treetops, their combined calls sounded like a rush of air through finely tuned strings, or a long, musical drawing of breath. There is no bird sound quite like it. A moment later they had all settled and were feeding noiselessly again.

There was another bird that I was in pursuit of: a ferruginous duck that had been recorded on one of the pits. This is a species that breeds in the Balkans and southern Asia, and a few usually appear here in late autumn. I scanned every stretch of water as I passed it. Two cormorants were sitting on some dead branches in the middle of one pit, more like bats than birds with their wings stretched out to dry. A great crested grebe surfaced, all silver and black in its winter plumage. Tufted ducks floated about in pairs, and there was a knot of pochard ducks.

But in the end there was no difficulty in finding the ferruginous duck. It was still on the lake I had been told about — with a cluster of telescopes, prams, and birders in woollen hats on the bank. It was diving behind a tree-trunk at the water's edge. Then it swam out, but went straight into a glitter of sunlight on the water that dazzled everyone watching. It turned into an arm of the lake, and we followed.

Suddenly it was "showing" perfectly, as the twitchers say. It glided past the bank just a few feet from us. We could see its dark, leathery body, its chocolate-coloured head and its distinctive white eye. It even gave us a view of its white wing-bar, as it rose in the water and flapped briefly. A loud noise in the distance announced 40 more birders coming rapidly towards us over a bridge. Yes, a lot of people went home very satisfied from their visit to the Lea valley last weekend.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for divers, grebes and gulls blown inland by gales. Twitchers — short-toed treecreeper, Dungeness, Kent; crane nr Barnsley, S. Yorks; American wigeon, Loch Leven, Tayside. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 45p a minute at all other times.*

The willow switches to biomass

In part two of our series on coppices, **Clive Fewins** reports on working with willows

Willow is a wonderful wood. Over the centuries it has had myriad different uses. The analgesic properties found in its bark gave rise to the early development of aspirin, while more commonplace uses of the pliable wood are for making baskets and hurdles, clothes pegs and thatching spars — not to mention cricket bats.

However, willow has never been regarded as a wood for fuel:

Logs of willow you'll regret,
Slow to start and far too wet.

Now, however, all that is likely to change. Willow may be an awful fuel if used as logs, but how about if it is burnt as small wood chips?

Perhaps the most remarkable quality of willow is its ability to propagate itself from an unrooted cutting in the ground. When willow is cut back to the main bole it will sprout again very fast.

It was the attraction of the wood as a quick-growing coppice crop that made farmer Lionel Hill decide to turn over a patch of land to willow-growing on his 112-acre farm in the Worcestershire village of Feckenham.

To his surprise he produced sufficient willow chips from the coppice to fire a 70kW boiler, and heat the otherwise unheated 26-room 16th-century farmhouse and several outbuildings — and all within three years.

"It was only when I asked around that I heard the term biomass — the word for growing wood specifically for the purpose of producing heat or energy," Mr Hill says.

That was nearly seven years ago. Mr Hill now has 20 acres devoted to growing various species of willow and poplar, and he has also diversified into supplying rods and clones of 13 varieties of poplar and 42 varieties of willow. In September he hosted a willow conference at his farm that attracted many farmers and agriculturalists interested in the commercial possibilities of energy coppice, or arable coppice as it is more generally known.

What they wanted to know was whether it pays — and whether growing willows will produce a better return than set-aside, which is anathema to many farmers, who regard their land as something which is meant to produce, not lie fallow.

That is a question agricultural economists have been addressing for several years. There is currently no definitive answer. But many farmers foresee co-operation arrangements whereby the chipped willow might be taken to a central incineration plant, providing combined heat and power for a number of farms or rural industrial buildings, or fed into the national grid.

There is also a "green bonus" in growing willow as an energy crop. When you burn wood you are recycling carbon dioxide by returning to the atmosphere the carbon dioxide that was taken from it in the growing process. Burning fossil fuels on the other hand means that you are adding additional greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

"It is a lot less harmful than growing trees that then fossilise into coal," says Dr Paul Maryan, who heads a government-funded team of researchers into the subject.

Further, turning willow and poplar into wood chips uses the whole tree, rather than just stem wood. "With conventional forestry often only 40 per cent of the tree is used. The rest is wasted," Dr Maryan says.

Last year the Department of Trade and Industry paid for six farmers in different parts of the country to carry out an experimental commercial project growing a series of different species of willow and poplar. All the farms will eventually plant 25 acres at a density of about 10,000 trees per hectare (two and a half acres). The results of both growth and combustion effectiveness will be monitored by experts from the department's Farm Wood Fuel and Energy project.

But what about the high water content of willow — the reason that it has always been regarded as a bad burner? The answer is that combustion technology has improved greatly, according to boiler expert Bob Talbott, of Talbott Combustion of Stafford, who supplied Mr Hill's latest 150kW boiler.



Lionel and Helen Hill inspect their willow coppice

"When willow or poplar is burnt on properly controlled equipment, with the right fuel value to combustion air, it is just as efficient as oil or gas, taking the lower calorific value into account," Mr Talbott says.

It is advisable however to leave willow to dry for a couple of months after chipping. The moisture content is reduced from about 50 per cent to 25 per cent, which is perfectly acceptable for burning in a boiler.

"I also like growing willow and poplar because it is the only crop to be harvested in winter, using the spare capacity of the equipment we use for harvesting grain earlier in the year," says Mr Hill.

"Growing willow and poplar as a biomass crop is more profitable than set-aside, which in any case goes against my natural farming instincts. It has spin-off in that I supply other growers with unrooted cuttings and rods, and there are also valuable environmental benefits. No wonder other farmers are in the wings awaiting convincing costings."

● *A.F. Hill and Son, Dunstall Court, Feckenham, Worcestershire B96 6QH (0527 575751)*



Among the willow stems, which are grown as an "eco-friendly" fuel to heat the farm and outbuildings

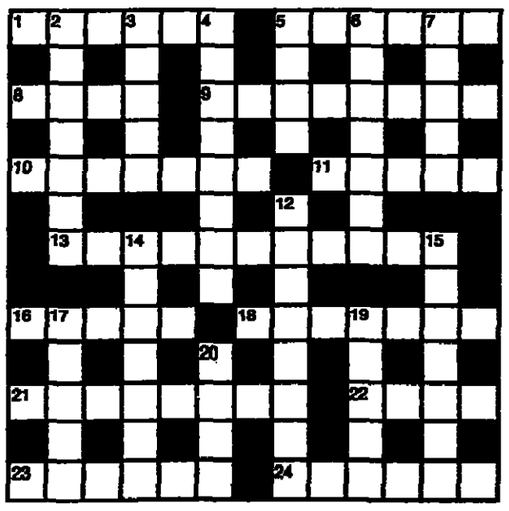
NOILLY PRAT



A heart-warming gift from the South of France...

L'APERITIF DEFINITIF! Before lunch, before dinner- the delicious, dry, rounded, taste of Noilly Prat cleanses the palate and stimulates the appetite like no other aperitif. Fine wines matured in oak for 3 years in the sun-drenched South of France, enriched with a secret blend of more than 40 herbs, produce the unique taste. Experience Noilly Prat today- simply chilled or with ice.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.99. Concise Book 1 £5.99. The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each, Books 14 to 16 £4.25 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each, Book 11 £4.25. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to *Akom Ltd*, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Just released for Christmas, The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

NO 36

ACROSS

1 Full session of assembly (6)
5 Britain, poetically (6)
8 Borough (4)
9 Physically fit and active (8)
10 Sir Henry Percy (King Henry IV) (7)
11 Different (5)
13 Don's formal clothes (11)
16 One that roams (5)
18 Eccentric (7)
21 Having unlawful second wife (8)
22 Large 8 (4)
23 Joined (6)
24 Nature-reserve official (6)

DOWN

2 Three Beethoven overtures (7)
3 One dresses up to them (5)
4 Deposits of coal (8)
5 Dull pain (4)
6 Fortifying infusion (4,3)
7 Greek fruit-tree (5)
12 Fluorescent-tube cover (8)
14 Temporarily suspended (7)
15 Give a shock (7)
17 Shape of Russian church dome (5)
19 Supposed author of Shakespeare (5)
20 Sounding strongly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 35

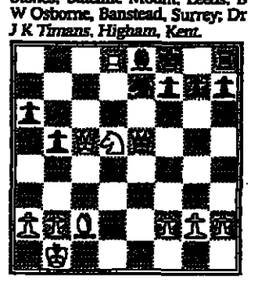
ACROSS: 5 Assembly room 8 Livery 9 Proofs 10 Gape 12 Panache 14 Cocotte 15 Wear 17 Careen 18 Office 20 Skateboarder

DOWN: 1 Taking to task 2 Isle 3 Slipway 4 Arrogate 6 Maya 7 Off the record 11 Property 13 Stand by 16 Rota 19

CHESS

By Raymond Keene

This position is taken from the game Gufeld - Plaskett, Hastings Premier 1986/87. Here, English Grandmaster Jim Plaskett is on the receiving end of a combination by Soviet Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld. Can you see how White won quickly? Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Rxh6+



Last week's winners are: A Stones, Batcliffe Mount, Leeds; B W Osborne, Banstead, Surrey; Dr J K Timans, Higham, Kent.

WORD GAMES

By Philip Howard

DIDAPPER
a. A young dandy
b. A nappy for Siamese twins
c. The dabchick

DZIGGETAI
a. A wild ass
b. A Masai spear

PROTERVITY
a. Easily knocked over
b. Petulance
c. A lust for life

RASPIS
a. An old wine
b. Infection between the toes
c. Jamaican festival

هكذا من الأصل